
WHEN TO CALL...

YOUR CULTURAL RESOURCES SPECIALIST OR COORDINATOR

IMPORTANT! READ THIS FIRST!








This page is designed for the public to understand when to call a NRCS Cultural Resources Specialist and Coordinator if they find a cultural resource on private land. If you are not sure what a cultural resource is click [HERE](#) to get to our NRCS Cultural Resources Fact Sheet. There are other links at the bottom of this page that will help you notify the correct agency if you find a cultural resource on a public land.

TO CALL OR NOT TO CALL

if interested in information specific to Texas, click [HERE](#).

TO CALL...

The first step before you call your specialist or coordinator is recognizing whether or not you have a cultural resource on hand. You can do this by simply clicking on the link above that will take you to the Cultural Resources Fact Sheet. Once you have established that you are indeed looking at a cultural resource, grab a pencil and paper to take a few notes.

-  1. Jot down the time and date.
-  2. Notice the location of the resource and write it down.
-  3. Write down what the resource looks like, being very descriptive. Use words like hard, polished, glazed, soft, crumbly, painted, stamped, undecorated, and square. Describe the objects' weight, height, width, and length. If possible, provide a rough sketch of the object found.
-  4. Mention the area covered by the resource and if any other resources and how many were found.
-  5.  **DO NOT COLLECT THE ARTIFACT FROM THE SITE**  because artifacts should only be removed from their contexts for research purposes. However, if an artifact or site is about to be destroyed, or if someone else is likely to remove the artifact before you can return with professional assistance, gently collect the artifact. This step is only to be taken when the cultural resource is in danger of being destroyed or ruined.

*This can only be done with the landowners permission. Properly mark the area where the artifact was removed from and inform the landowner of your procedure. **REPEAT:** This can only be done with the landowners permission.*

Put the cultural resource in a labeled bag and immediately seek professional assistance. In most cases, the safest policy is to leave the resource in the original spot with an added marker. These resources have lasted a long time in their area and will continue to do so for a few hours while you decide the next course of action.



6. Call your Cultural Resources Specialist or Coordinator.

NRCS Cultural Resources Specialists and Coordinators Directory. Directory that lists all of the specialist and coordinators in the NRCS.

...OR NOT TO CALL

You do not need to call your Cultural Resources Specialist or Coordinator if the cultural resource you found is less than fifty years old. If you are on land other than your own, please notify the landowner and recommend they contact either their local NRCS Cultural Resources Specialists or Coordinator.

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[Go to National Cultural Resources Specialist page](#)

[Ecological Sciences Division \(ESD\) home page](#)