Unconsolidated glacial and postglacial deposits, the large range from fine silt to several hundred feet in thickness, override the bedrock surface of Connecticut (see Block Diagram). This map portrays the areal extent and subsurface geometry (vertical distributions of fines surficial materials). The map legend is designed to highlight textural characteristics and the areal distributions and character of the materials portrayed. Most of Connecticut’s surficial material is glacially derived, and can be divided into two broad depositional categories: Glacial Ice-Laid Deposits (Till) and stratified deposits which are generally exposed in the uplands, and are the most widespread surficial deposit in Connecticut; and Glacial Meltwater deposits (stratified deposits) which are more commonly found in the coastal areas. The surficial geology mapping in Connecticut emphasizes the glacial surficial deposits because they control and dominate the surficial geology and thus the development of the state. Glacial deposits dominate the uplands, and are the most widespread surficial deposit in Connecticut because their distribution and character have historically influenced development patterns throughout the state.

For a complete description of surficial materials map units, and further information concerning their thicknesses and results of occurrences, please refer to the published Surficial Materials Map of Connecticut and the companion Quaternary Geologic Map of Connecticut and Long Island Sound Basin (see Data Sources).

Clastic till and loess (silts and very fine silt) are the two broad classes of surficial materials formed by glacial ice-laid processes. Strata of glacial till are generally sand and gravel, and cover upland deposits, and are the most widespread deposits in the state. They are a result of the glacial ice-laid processes, and are typically fine-grained sediments. Glacial meltwater deposits are a result of glacial meltwater processes, and are typically fine-grained sediments. Glacial meltwater deposits are less widespread and are typically thinner than glacial till deposits. They can be good sources of construction materials, and are relatively easy to excavate and handle.

Meltwater deposits are depicted using four basic topologically-broad map units: coarse, sand and gravel, silt, and fine. To the extent that it is a deposit or can be identified, the underlying textural composition of meltwater deposits is shown through their vertical textural relationships. This map was designed to describe the textural composition of surficial deposits at a scale of 1:24,000 (1 inch = 2000 feet). Most surficial deposits are complex and have complex vertical textural relationships and have been influenced by different processes. This map is intended to be printed at its original dimensions in order to maintain the 1:24,000 scale (1 inch = 2000 feet).