Soaking accounts for adverse moisture conditions from potential rainfall or flooding, and most CBR tests use this procedure. In addition to the compaction process, preparation usually involves soaking each specimen in water for 96 hours before the penetration test.

During the soaking period, a surcharge load of 10lbf (4.54kg) or more must be placed on the sample using **surcharge weights** to simulate the weight of the pavement and other loads specified. The soil swell resulting from soaking must be measured using **expansion measuring apparatus** and **swell plates** placed on the sample before penetration testing. It takes a significant amount of time to prepare multiple compacted specimens for a single test. **Complete CBR testing sets** containing multiple CBR molds and components are available to maximize testing productivity and efficiency.
Note: *Unsoaked tests are not unusual in areas where rainfall amounts and the local water table are both low.*