



Department of  
Resource Management

**Environmental Health  
Services Division**

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*SITE EVALUATION*

*For*

*ON-SITE SEWAGE  
DISPOSAL SYSTEMS*

Before issuance of a permit to install an on-site sewage disposal system, it is necessary

to determine where it should be placed, the kind of system required, and how it should be constructed. This information is obtained through site evaluation.

**SITE EVALUATION:**

A site evaluation is performed by a registered consultant. Registered consultants are Licensed Professional Engineers, Registered Environmental Health Specialists, Professional Geologists, Certified Engineering Geologists, or Certified Professional Soil Scientists. Registered consultants are knowledgeable in soil identification and mechanics and how soil can impact a septic system.

The site evaluation is composed of two parts. The first is the on-site review. After this is completed, then soil evaluation can occur.

**ON SITE REVIEW:**

During the on-site review the registered consultant walks the site to determine the best location to perform further testing. Locations of wells, property lines, drainages, excessive slopes and other surface features are identified.

Once a suitable area is found, then soil evaluation can occur.

**SOIL EVALUATION:**

1. SOIL PROFILE:

To begin the soil evaluation the registered consultant observes the soil characteristics within the sidewall of a soil profile. A soil profile is an 8' deep pit usually dug by a backhoe. Evidence of groundwater (seasonal or permanent) is also reviewed. Hand augers may be allowed under special circumstances and with prior written approval from the Environmental Health Services Division.

The registered consultant will make a field determination as to the texture of the soil. Texture is the percentage of sand, silt, and clay in the soil. There are many different soil textures. Each texture falls within a specific location on the USDA Soil Textural Triangle depending upon the specific percentage of sand, silt and clay (see USDA Soil Textural Chart). The soil texture is an important factor in determining how well an on-site sewage disposal system will function in the soil. The field classification of the soil will determine the type of additional testing required.

Soils that are field classified as sandy loam, sandy clay loam, or loam only require a hydrometer test and in-place bulk density measurement to confirm the texture. A hydrometer test is a laboratory test that determines specifically the percentages of sand, silt and clay. Soils that are classified as sand, loamy sand, sandy clay, clay loam,

