

Soil Site Evaluation

A soil site evaluation determines if a septic system can be approved on a lot. The test considers all options including standard and sand filter systems. The “cheapest-best” system is always prescribed. If the minimum DEQ rules cannot be met a denial notice will be issued. If approval is granted a separate septic installation permit may be applied for by the property owner.

Site Criteria

The suitability of a site for a septic system is largely determined by the type and depth of soil and the depth to the water table. Other factors include the size of the property, the slope, location of the system relative to streams, wells, cuts and fills, and whether sewer service is available.

Application Process

The following must be submitted to the Soils department at the time of application:

1. The application form must be filled out completely and signed by the property owner. Multiple lots will require an application for each lot.
2. An acceptable plot plan (per example).
3. **Fee of \$695.00 for each lot.**
4. A LUCS (Land Use Compatibility Statement) signed by the appropriate official from the jurisdiction affected. See handout for sewer and land use approval.

To ensure the quickest and most accurate possible analysis of your site please pay special attention to the following guidelines. Sites that do not adhere to the following risk denial or an extended review time.

Test Pit

1. Provide a minimum of two test pits (maximum of six).
2. Test pits must be 2' x 3' x _____' deep and sloped at one end for access.
3. Keep the “spoils” pile at least two feet away from the edge of the test pit.
4. Test pits should be spaced 100' apart in the area where you intend to locate the original and replacement drainfields.
5. Locate the test pits in an area no smaller than 100' x 100' and no larger than five acres.
6. Test pits should be located on the driest part of the property and should not be located within any of the setbacks. (see setback list)

Site Preparation

1. If the test pits are not easy to find, mark a trail to them in the field
2. Identify the property corners on site using clearly marked stakes or similar means.
3. Post green permit card at the public end of your driveway or access road.

Notification

The owner will be notified by mail. Due to staffing concerns and a high volume of applications the Soil Site Evaluation may take several weeks to complete. Unfortunately it is not possible to schedule on-site visits at this time. Please call the Soils desk at 503-742-4740 for additional questions.



State of Oregon
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Quality

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Test Pit Preparation for Onsite Sewage Evaluations

When do you need a "Test Pit?"

When you apply for a permit to construct an onsite sewage disposal system, a DEQ or County inspector will have to visit the proposed construction site. A *test pit* allows the inspector to test and examine the soil and soil layers and will help determine if it is appropriate to proceed with construction. This process is often referred to as a "site evaluation."

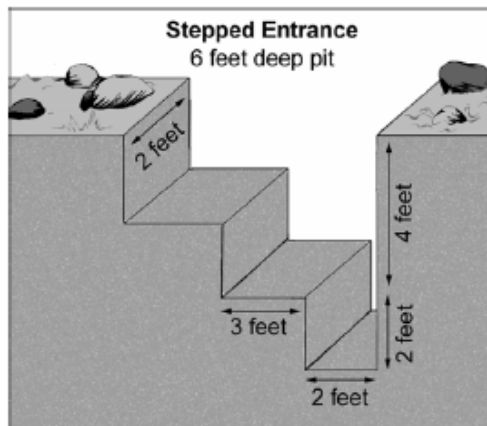
Preparing the test pit

To provide for pit stabilization and safe access, standard test pits for site evaluations must be prepared in the following manner:

- The bottom of the pit shall be at least 2 feet wide and 4 feet long.
- The depth shall be at least 4.5 feet and shall not exceed 5 feet.
- In some instances, pits need only be excavated to the layer of hard rock or to the water table if that layer is less than 5 feet.

6 -Foot test pits

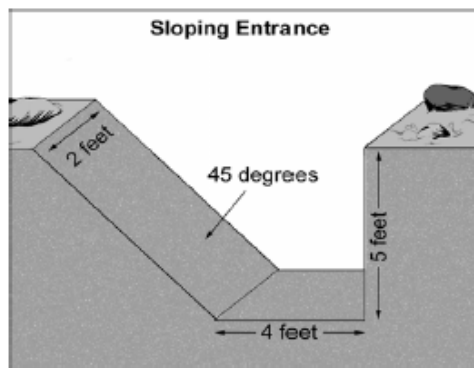
At the *request of the inspector*, test pits may need to be excavated to a depth of 6 feet as shown in the figure below:



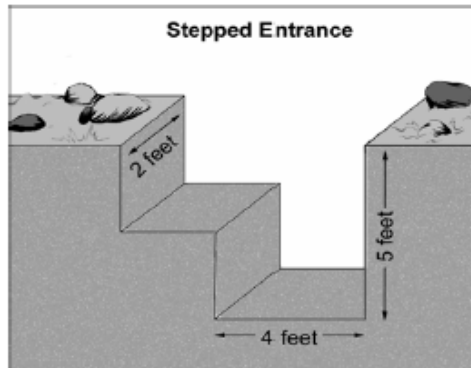
The entrance to a 6-foot test pit may be sloped or stepped as soil conditions warrant.

Providing Access to the Standard Test Pits:

For easy access, one end of the test pit shall be either:



Sloped at approximately 45 degrees or less if the soils are dry or loose.



Stepped when soils are wet.

All spoils need to be a minimum of 2 feet from the pit edge.

Learn more about Oregon's Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Program and locate a local onsite representative. Contact DEQ or visit DEQ's Onsite web page at:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/onsite/onsite.htm>

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