

ONSITE EVALUATIONS

Onsite Evaluations

Evaluation of a property for onsite sewage systems, review of onsite sewage systems associated with food establishment and school plan review, or review of a hydrogeological report to address Assimilative Capacity standards for proposed onsite sewage systems requires an Onsite Evaluation application and site plan (see site plan checklist).

How Do I Apply?

Submit a completed application package to the Building Development Center with the applicable application fee. Complete application package requirements are outlined on the application form. A site and soil evaluation requires an application as well as a site plan showing the lot's location and dimensions and the location of soil test pits.

Soil Test Pits

For soil evaluations, the applicant must excavate at least two soil test pits in the proposed primary drainfield area and at least one soil test pit in the reserve area. The following requirements must be met:

1. Test pits must be six (6) feet deep, but excavation may stop at a depth where the water table or restrictive layer is encountered.
2. Test pits must be large enough and ramped for easy and safe access. The applicant is responsible for constructing and maintaining test pits in a manner to prevent injury to people.
3. A sign identifying the site must be posted at the site entrance along the public road.
4. A cleared and marked path through any brush, fences or obstacles to all test pits must be provided.
5. Each test pit must be numbered by a painted or flagged stake.

Review Process

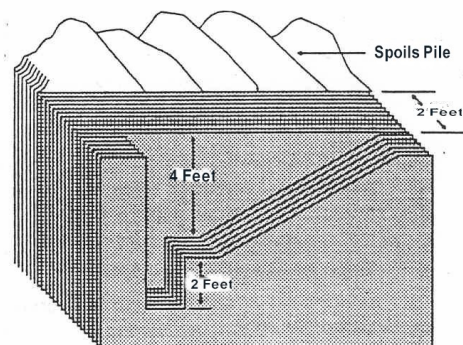
If applicable, the Health Officer will perform a site evaluation. Additional test pits may be required following the site evaluation. If a hydrogeological report is submitted for review, it must be prepared following the [*Hydrogeological Report & Assimilative Capacity Guidance*](#) document. Results of the evaluation will be issued to the applicant. This review is separate from the sewage permit process and constitutes neither a valid application for purposes of future vesting, nor permission from the Health Officer to install an onsite sewage system.

Time Periods Not Applicable

An Onsite Evaluation is a report of site and soil conditions at the time of the inspection, an assessment of an existing onsite sewage system, or an analysis of a hydrogeological report. Therefore, an evaluation report has no vesting, no "period of validity" nor expiration date as does a permit. To receive written approval for a project, please refer to the Onsite Sewage Bulletin.

I Still Have Questions...

The information in this bulletin is a general guideline of the procedures and rules. For additional information, speak with a staff member at the Building Development Center. Contact information is listed below. You may also review all Thurston County Codes online on the County website referenced at the bottom of this page.



Example of Soil Log Test Pit (cutaway)