



Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems

SECTION B | GENERAL SITE PROVISIONS

Environmental Health Section

SECTION B - GENERAL SITE PROVISIONS

1) Soil Characteristics

On-site sewage management system construction permits shall be denied where soil studies, soil types, on-site investigations or other geological data indicate soil conditions which preclude safe and proper operation of an on-site sewage management system or when the installation of a system would create an actual or potential health hazard. Soil survey maps and reports prepared on the usual broad scales of 1:15840 feet or 1:20000 feet are not sufficient to approve property for development with on-site sewage management systems. On-site analysis of soils is required to validate the soil data before construction permits can be approved or denied.

2) Ground Water

On-site sewage management system construction permits for conventional or chamber septic tank systems shall be denied where the seasonal high ground water elevation is less than two feet below the bottom of the proposed absorption field, or pit for a privy, or less than one foot where aerobic pretreatment of the effluent to Class I quality is used. Water table elevations will be determined by criteria established in Section C of this Manual.

3) Bedrock and Impervious Strata

On-site sewage management system construction permits for conventional or chamber septic tank systems shall be denied where bedrock or other impervious strata are less than two feet below the bottom of the proposed absorption field, or pit for a privy, or less than one foot where aerobic pretreatment of the effluent, to Class I quality, is used.

4) Topographical and Other Site Conditions

- A. *Fill* - Areas consisting of fill shall be excluded from consideration for use of conventional or chamber septic tank systems unless the County Board of Health, after consideration of special studies, allows the use of a controlled, uniform fill of permeable soil, interfaced with the original permeable soil, and provided that the infiltrative surface of the absorption trench is located in the original soil or in a fill that meets the above requirements. A Soil Classifier, Registered Engineer or Registered Geologist shall certify that the in-place fill meets the requirements in Section H of this Manual or with County Board of Health approval, a Level II Certified Environmental Health Specialist trained in fill evaluation may approve in-place fill meeting the requirements in Section H of this Manual.
- B. *Cuts and Grading* - If grading, cuts, ditching, trenching or other modifications planned for the site will ultimately affect the vertical location of the proposed absorption field in the soil, soil evaluation and percolation tests are to be made after alterations have been completed. This is done so that tests will be conducted in soil of the same characteristics and at the same depth at which the absorption field will be installed.

- C. *Slope* - The suitability of the area to be used for the proposed absorption field with regard to slope shall be determined by consideration of lateral flow of effluent to the surface of the slope. Slopes of more than 25 percent shall be considered unsuitable unless the application for the construction permit includes the results of a special investigation by a soil classifier, which demonstrates that the slope limitation can be overcome by design or by site modifications. See Figure 1.B.
- D. *Drainage* - Areas with gullies, ravines, dry stream beds, natural and man-made drainage ways, sink holes and/or other similar conditions shall be excluded from consideration for any on-site sewage management system utilizing soil absorption as a method for final disposal. Areas subject to frequent flooding should not be considered for installation of on-site sewage management systems.
- E. *Replacement area requirements for lots approved for single family home development with an onsite sewage management system prior to April 1, 2008* – As determined by the local board of health, where special soil studies and engineered site plans indicate suitability, replacement area shall at least be equivalent in size to the primary onsite sewage management system absorption field. Site specific soil permeability tests and data may be required to determine site suitability. This provision does not waive lot sizing requirements as adopted by local county boards of health.

5) Tables, Figures and Forms

Figure 1.B Slope - Minimum Soil Depth

