

Fact Sheet

Site Evaluation Procedures & Criteria for Septic System Approval

Where is a Septic System needed?

In areas where no sewer service is available, an On-site Sewage Treatment and Disposal System, also known as a septic system, is needed to treat and properly dispose of sewage, which includes gray water. State law requires permits for on-site systems to ensure that they are constructed and sited in a manner that protects human health and the environment.

What is a “Site Evaluation”?

A *Site Evaluation* determines which type and size of system is suitable for your property. Before anyone can apply for a permit to install a septic system, a DEQ On-site specialist must perform a Site Evaluation.

Site Evaluation Criteria

The type and depth of soil and the depth to the water table largely determine the suitability of a proposed site for a septic system. Other factors include the size of the property, how steep the site is, location of the system relative to streams, wells, cuts and fills, and whether sewer service is available. There must also be enough area available for a full system replacement in case the system fails. These criteria are prescribed in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 304, Division 071 and 073. A copy of the rules can be obtained from the DEQ On-site website:

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

Site Evaluation Process

Step 1: The Site Evaluation application form must be completely filled out, signed by the owner or legally authorized representative, and submitted to North Central Public Health District along with the fee.

A tax lot map, a detailed drawing of the proposed development, and directions to the property must be included.

You must also provide at least 2 test pits, (more are necessary for large systems) one in the area of the drain field and another approximately 100 feet away in an area reserved for drain field replacement.

Step 2: After a completed application is received, a DEQ On-site Specialist will visit your property to perform the Site Evaluation. Depending on weather, test pit placement and if additional test pits need to be dug, more than one visit may be necessary. The Health Department’s goal is to respond to completed Site Evaluation applications within three (3) weeks of receiving them, however, during the summer it may take up to 5 weeks.

Step 3: You will receive a *Site Evaluation Report* that specifies the approved area, the type and size of the septic system required and any special requirements.

Should the site be rejected, you have 90 days in which you may provide additional test pits for evaluation with no additional fees. In addition, the Site Evaluation Report will give you information on how to apply for a site evaluation report review and provide an opportunity to apply for a variance from the standards.

You must have a favorable Site Evaluation Report in order to apply for the permit.

What are the Site Evaluation fees?

The type of system and the amount of proposed sewage flow determines the fees. To obtain specific fee information for a particular application please call the North Central Public Health District.

For more information contact the North Central Public Health District @ (541) 506-2603.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

North Central Public
Health District
“Caring for our
Community”

419 East Seventh Street,
The Dalles, OR 97058
Phone: 541-506-2600
Fax: 541-506-2601
Website: www.ncphd.org