

Manner for Conducting Percolation Tests

It is recommended to have the profile hole dug and soil assessment completed prior to conducting the percolation tests.

A soil percolation test shall be made in at least 3 test holes placed within 5 feet of where the proposed absorption system or shallow wastewater system is to be located. The holes shall be randomly located in soil representative of and similar in character to the rest of the area where the system will be placed.

The horizontal diameter of the percolation hole shall be from 6 to 12 inches and the vertical sides shall extend to the maximum depth of the proposed absorption system or a maximum depth of 36 inches for a conventional system or 24 inches for an at-grade or mound system, whichever is greater.

Test holes shall be located in unfrozen soil and shall be filled at least 50 percent full with water for at least 8 hours but no more than 16 hours before making the soil percolation test. Immediately before making the test, each hole shall be refilled with water to at least 50 percent of its volume. When the water reaches the lower 25 percent of the test hole, the test shall begin. The percolation rate of a test hole shall be expressed in the number of minutes it takes the water level to drop 1 inch. The percolation rate for the area where the subsurface infiltration system is desired is the average percolation rate of all the test holes. The percolation tests shall be conducted for 2 hours unless the percolation rate is slower than 45 minutes per inch, in which case the percolation tests shall be run for at least 4 hours.

