

HOW TO GET A SEPTIC PERMIT

1. Be prepared to describe how to get to your site by knowing road names, distances and directions. If someone cannot meet us at the site, place a cardboard or wooden sign at the side of the road where your driveway will begin. Stake the path of the drive and lead us to the home site with flags or other markers.

2. Contact a soil scientist. The soil must be tested to a depth of five feet in the area where the lateral field will be. A report must be prepared by the soil scientist and submitted to the health department.



There are four licensed, qualified soil scientists serving Harrison County:

Jack Coulter, Paoli – 812-723-2846

Jack Deal, Floyds Knobs – 812- 923-3769

John Robbins, Jr., Scottsburg – 812-752-7160

Spencer Williams, Scottsburg – 877-556-1557

3. Contact your chosen septic system installer. The health department has a list of installers if needed. These installers have passed a test and installed at least 3 septic systems properly, to all State and county codes. This list is also available online:

www.harrisoncountyhealth.com/installer.htm.

In most cases, your installer will “take over” and deal with the health department for you, and will see to it that the septic permit is issued. Your installer and the soil scientist should also work together to determine the best location for your septic system based on soils and surface characteristics unique to your site.

Have your installer lay out the proposed location of the home, tank, distribution box and lateral lines at the site with flags, paint, or other markers (below). This way everyone can be sure the system will fit on the lot and in the proposed location. An experienced installer will lay out the lateral lines along the contours, NOT up and down the slopes.



4. The homeowner or builder must fill out page 1 of the Application for On-Site Sewage Disposal System. This form is available on our website at www.harrisoncountyhealth.com/Septic_Application_2011.pdf. If you don't have internet access, it can be picked up from the health department offices. We can also mail or fax it to you.

The septic installer must submit a site plan drawing to the health department (on page 2 of the application). **He must also schedule a site survey appointment with environmental health personnel.**

4. After steps 1, 2 & 3 have been completed, environmental health personnel will go to the site, check the topography, the proposed home location, the septic layout, etc. If it is determined that the site is suitable, they will write up and issue your septic permit. They will call you when it's ready and you can come to the office to pick it up.

STEPS:

- Decide on and meet with a septic system installer.** Often your installer will deal with the health department for you and the soil scientist you have chosen; most installers have plenty of experience with this. Have your installer stake the location of the home and septic system on the ground.
- Have your chosen soil scientist check your soil in an appropriate site and prepare a soil report.** He will send a copy of the completed report to you and one to us. When you get your copy, call the health department at 812-738-3237, Option 3. Let us know: 1) how many bedrooms your home will have; 2) whether or not you will have basement plumbing.
- Complete page 1 of the Application for On-Site Sewage Disposal System.**
- Have your installer complete the site survey drawing on page 2 of the above-mentioned Application.**
- Call the health department at 812-738-3237, Option 3, between the hours of 8:00 and 9:30 am weekdays to schedule a site visit so your septic permit can be issued.**

A septic permit for new construction costs \$60.00.

A repair permit for an existing system costs \$30.00.

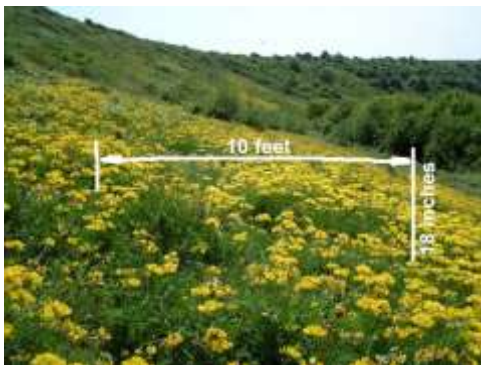
THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT SITES

DO NOT scrape or dig in the area of the proposed lateral field (except for the test holes made by the soil scientist). *Cutting or scraping the soil could render the site useless for on-site waste disposal.*

AVOID areas subject to flooding and/or areas along natural drainage ways (below).



AVOID slopes steeper than 15%. This equals 18" of fall in 10 feet of run (below). Be sure to check your site before proceeding.



This photo is for illustration purposes only. The slope shown may actually be more than 15%.

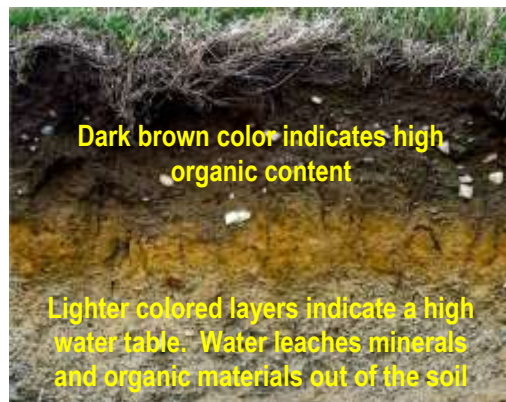
AVOID sinkholes (below), caves, and standing water such as ponds and lakes by at least 50 feet. **AVOID running water** like streams, ditches, and other drainage ways by at least 25 feet.



AVOID eroded areas having less than 34 inches of good soil (below).



AVOID poorly drained areas. Test holes revealing an abundance of grey or yellow mottling indicate limiting layers or a high water table (below).



Steps in Obtaining a Septic Permit



HARRISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Environmental Health
241 Atwood Street, Suite 200
Corydon, Indiana 47112
812-738-3237, Option 3

For more information, visit our website:

www.harrisoncountyhealth.com

Environmental Health > Septic Systems