

Salisbury Township, Lancaster County

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Application Procedure

The applicant (property owner or equitable owner) shall complete the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) form "Application for an On-Lot Sewage Disposal System Permit" (application). The application must be signed by the property owner or equitable owner. The completed and signed application must be submitted to Salisbury Township (Township) with the \$100.00 application fee. Each lot being tested requires a completed application and applications are available in the township office.

SCHEDULING SITE EVALUATION

After the completed application(s) are received, the township Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) will contact the applicant to schedule the required site evaluation.

SITE EVALUATION PREPARATION

A site evaluation is conducted as part of the procedure for determining suitability for on-lot disposal of sewage. The evaluation is conducted in two phases; 1) observation test pits and 2) percolation testing.

Observation test pits are conducted to determine the capability of the soil to effectively renovate sewage effluent prior to it entering the groundwater. Percolation testing is conducted to determine the rate at which sewage effluent can be expected to seep into the soil. This rate and the anticipated sewage flow for the structure(s) are calculated to provide minimum absorption area size requirements.

The following instructions are provided for the applicant to prepare the site in a manner consistent with the township's operational procedures. The township recommends using a competent sewage facilities consultant to assist the applicant with the site evaluation. The township should not be considered the consultant and as such cannot direct or design work to be completed.

**** IMPORTANT NOTE** - The applicant/sewage facilities consultant **MUST** be aware of the precise location of the property lines before the commencement of testing. It is possible a surveyor may need to be retained to mark property lines and or property corners to ensure the location of testing being completed meets the required isolation distances.

OBSERVATION TEST PITS

1. A Pennsylvania One Call System Serial Number MUST be obtained 3 to 10 days prior to the SEO witnessing the test pits. This serial number should be obtained by the excavator and must be given to township SEO prior to the observation of the test pits. The SEO will not witness test pits without obtaining the serial number. The PA One call number is 800-242-1776.
2. Location of applicant well(s) and neighboring well(s) must be known. The proposed septic absorption area must be at least 100 feet from all wells.
3. A minimum of 2 test pits shall be excavated with a backhoe at opposite ends of the proposed absorption area. At least one of the test pits must be within 10 feet of the perimeter of the proposed absorption area. Each test pit must be at least 2 feet in width and should be dug parallel to the natural ground surface contours. Additional test pits may be requested at the discretion of the SEO or PADEP.
4. The excavation shall be to the depth of the limiting zone or a maximum of 7 feet where no limiting zone is encountered. Access steps or a ramp must be dug at one end of the test probe for easy access.
5. All test pits shall be evaluated by the SEO or PADEP, depending on the project. A written profile report will be provided to the applicant for all test pits.
6. The township requires the backhoe be on-site at the time of the evaluation in the event that further test pits are required.
7. All observation test pit excavations shall be backfilled within 3 days from the day of the SEO's evaluations.

PERCOLATION TESTING

1. The applicant is responsible for having a minimum of six (6) percolation test holes (6 – 10 inches diameter) dug on contour and uniformly spaced over the proposed absorption area. The depths of the percolation test holes will be determined after the test pits are evaluated.
2. All percolation holes must be located in the proposed absorption area for all system types. The proposed percolation test location must be easily accessed to be able to complete the percolation test. It is possible that clearing may be needed prior to the completion of the percolation test(s).
3. The applicant is responsible for providing an adequate amount of water at each percolation test location in order for the SEO to complete the required pre-soak and also the completion of the percolation test. The SEO will review these requirements at the time of the test pits.
4. The SEO will complete the initial presoak 8 to 24 hours prior to the percolation test, at which time a minimum of 12 inches of water shall be poured in all holes and left undisturbed.
5. The SEO will complete the percolation test. All percolation test results will be documented and the results will be provided to the applicant.

Upon completion of satisfactory test pits and percolation tests, the applicant may apply for a permit to install a sewage disposal system by submitting a design of the proposed sewage system (which shall be completed by a competent designer) for the township to review. The completed application and four copies of the design must be submitted for review. Proposed subdivisions and projects that require sewage facilities planning must receive final approval from the PADEP prior to the issuance of an on-lot sewage disposal system permit.