

Soil Profile Site Preparation

A soil profile identifies and characterizes soil for the installation of an onsite sewage treatment system. The soil classification, in conjunction with the daily amount of sewage generated, determines the allowable types of systems and the dispersal size required. Typically, porous soils (sandy) will allow the use of subsurface absorption fields while nonporous soils (clay) require lagoons, evapotranspiration/absorption systems or aerobic systems. Soil profiles must be performed by a DEQ Certified Soil Profiler. A list of certified soil profilers can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ymb66y98>.

Soil types can change across a property. A soil profile designates a specific site for the dispersal field. If the location of the dispersal field is outside of the test area, a new soil profile must be performed in the new location.

Locating an Area for Your Soil Profile Test

- The soil test must be located on the same property as the proposed residence.
- Locate the soil test downhill from the residence and in the area where you want the absorption field to be installed.
- Locate the soil test area at least 15 feet from water lines or creeks, 5 feet from your property lines, a minimum of 50 feet from water wells, and 300 feet from public water supply wells.
- Locate and identify the property lines (stakes if possible).
- Stake the proposed house location and any additional structures.

Preparing the Site for Your Soil Profile

- Mark property with address or owner's name to assist utility line locate companies with finding the correct residence.
- Flag three test hole locations. Test holes are arranged in 50' x 50' x 75' isosceles triangle.
- Clear away tall grass and other obstacles from the testing field.

Reminder: Before you install a new onsite sewage treatment system or make additions to a dispersal field, you are required by law to obtain an Authorization to Construct (permit) and have the installation inspected by DEQ or installed by a DEQ Certified Installer. A current list of certified installers can be found at <https://applications.deq.ok.gov/certinstallers/certinstallers.aspx/>.

If you have questions regarding soil profiles or onsite sewage treatment systems, contact your local DEQ Environmental Specialist. You can find the local DEQ office serving your area at <https://tinyurl.com/44r4ywu4>.

