



HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Our mission is to promote and protect the health of the people of Lake County through education and the enforcement of public health laws

Site Evaluation Guide for Septic Systems

Why is a septic system needed?

In areas where no sewer service is available, an Onsite Wastewater Treatment/Disposal System, also known as a septic system, is needed to treat and properly dispose of sewage. State law requires permits for onsite 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 Site Evaluation must be performed by a representative from the Lake County Environmental Health Division.

Site Evaluation criteria

The suitability of a proposed site for a septic system is determined by the effective soil depth, the size of the proposed lot, and the depth to any groundwater table. Other factors may include slope, streams, wells, natural or manmade cuts, and easements. There must also be enough area available for an initial and replacement system.

Steps required to process your application:

1. Completed application form and fee:

Please make sure your application is complete. Incomplete applications will be returned. **(See Fee Schedule)**

2. Prepare parcel for evaluation:

Please provide written directions and a detailed map for those parcels that are in a remote area, large, or difficult to locate. The property address must be posted and visible from the roadway. Please refer to the "Test Pit Preparation for Site Evaluations" information for preparing parcel for evaluation.

3. Site Evaluation:

A representative from our office will complete the site evaluation. You may make arrangements to be present onsite during the evaluation. Our goal is to perform Site Evaluations within three (3) weeks of notification that the site is prepared. There may be increased demand that may result in delays in completing site evaluations.

4. Site Evaluation report and letter:

After the site evaluation is completed, a report will be generated that specifies an approval or denial for a septic system. The Site Evaluation Report consists of a copy of the field worksheet and a letter. Our field worksheet includes a site sketch, and a description of soil profiles from the test pits.

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The site sketch will show the location of the test pits, slope gradient and direction, most physical features (such as property lines, fences, roads, buildings, surface water bodies, water source, power poles, etc.) and the approval area. The site evaluation report includes effective soil depth, soil texture, soil color, and other soil properties that affect wastewater treatment.

Our office will send a site evaluation letter which will specify an approval or denial. An approval letter is a document that states the type and size of the septic system for the initial system and the replacement system, and any special conditions or limitations of the specific site. **You must have a site evaluation approval letter in order to apply for a septic permit on new development.**

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