

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 (list is below).** 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 five **licensed, qualified soil scientists** serving Harrison County: (complete list: irss.purdue.edu)

Jim Brown	812-755-4195	jldebrown812@gmail.com
Jack Coulter	812-525-1896	
Archie Sauerheber	812-267-2749	archieaws@hotmail.com
Spencer Williams	812-525-6796	spencergene@yahoo.com
Darin Willis	812-893-0910	yetienvironmental11c@gmail.com

When you receive your copy of the soil report, call us at 812-738-3237, Option 3, to discuss your particular septic system needs. Then you can contact a septic installer to have your system flagged out at your site.

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 at www.harrisoncountyhealth.com. Look for Environmental Health, then Septic Systems.

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

Have your installer flag out the proposed location of the home, septic tank, distribution box and lateral lines at the site with flags, paint, or other markers (below). This way everyone can be sure everything will fit on the lot 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. We can also email, fax or mail it you. Just call and ask.

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

5. **AFTER the health department has:**

- (1) spoken to the owner,
- (2) received and examined a copy of the soil report,
- (3) received a completed septic application (page 1 and page 2 must be filled out completely), and
- (4) looked at the septic system flagged out at the site,

your septic permit will be issued, unless there is a severe problem that prevents your site from being used. You'll be notified when it's ready, and you can come to our office to pick it up and pay for it.

STEPS:

✓ **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. We need to know: 1) how many bedrooms your home will have; 2) whether or not you will have basement plumbing.

✓ **Decide on and meet with a septic system installer.** Often your installer will deal with the health department and the soil scientist for you; most installers have plenty of experience with this. **Have your installer flag the location of the home and septic system at the site.**

✓ **Complete page 1 of the Application for On-Site Sewage Disposal System.**

✓ **Have your installer complete a DETAILED 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 repair permit costs \$50.00.

A septic permit for new construction costs \$150.00.

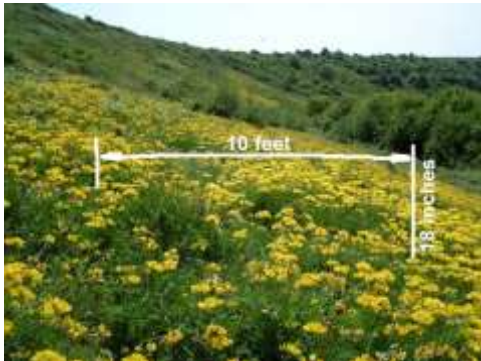
THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT SITES

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 greater than 15%.

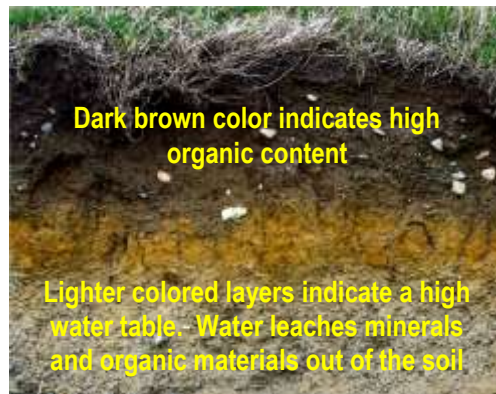
AVOID sinkholes (below), caves, and standing water such as ponds and lakes by at least 50 feet. **AVOID running water** like streams, ditches, and other drainage ways by at least 25 feet.



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