

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Allegany County Health Department
P O Box 1745, Cumberland MD 21501
301-759-5039

Paramount to a land use permit involving a proposed dwelling, an adequate area must be established and designated for sewage disposal. The determination for an acceptable sewage disposal area requires a minimum of three passing percolation holes and a 7' deep evaluation pit prepared to allow a full examination of the type, depth, and texture of various soils that are available for filtration of effluent.

Preparation of the percolation holes includes digging three holes about 50 feet apart at varying depths 1 foot, 2 feet and 3 feet at a foot or two in diameter. These holes must be prepared carefully using a posthole digger or shovel being careful not to pack the sides of the hole.

Excavating a trench in the center of the proposed sewage disposal area, the trench must be used to examine the soil profile. The trench must be a minimum of 14 feet long and 3 feet wide and 7 feet deep and sloped or stepped at one end to walk into and out of the trench.

Place the yellow pennant marker along the main road easily seen from a passing vehicle. If the perc holes are located more than 100 feet from the marker, a second one should be placed visible from the first roadside marker. Then, **place 5 gallons of water at each test hole.** We will notify you of the test date you have selected on the application and the sanitarian will make the site visit. In the event the soils in the excavation trench are not suitable, it will be necessary to excavate another trench; therefore, we URGE you to schedule the field test while the backhoe is available on site. A *\$200.00 fee* is required for the evaluation and percolation test. Complete the enclosed application and return it with the \$200 fee. **Repeat perc tests on another day will be \$200.**

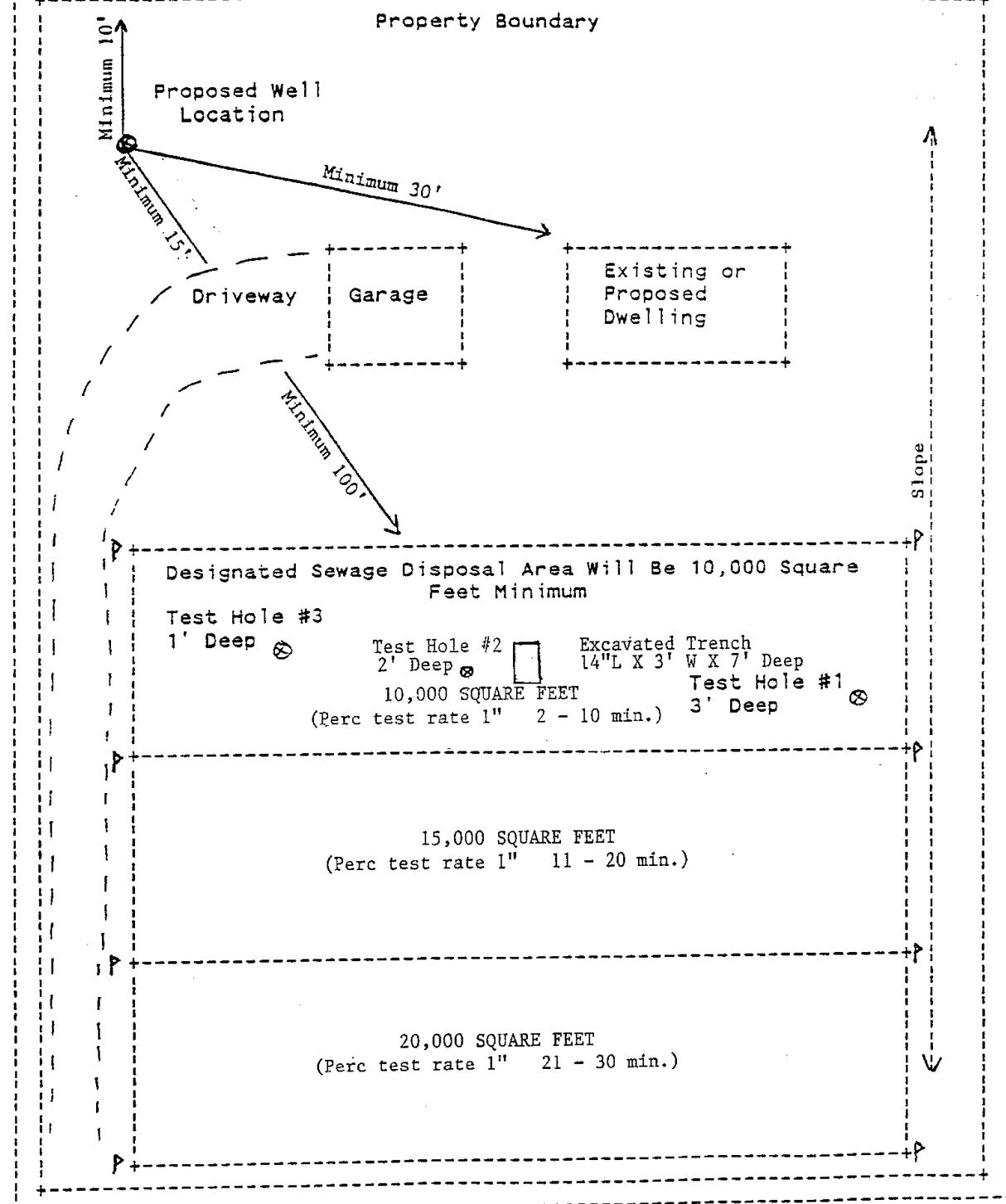
Be certain the pink ribbons properly locate the four corners on the property to be tested before requesting the test. Testing of any kind will not be conducted without corner indicators. All evaluation pits must be closed at the conclusion of the site testing.

Well Construction Permits: Once your property has passed evaluation and perc testing for on site sewage and the area has been delineated, you may contact a Maryland licensed well driller of your choice and they will make application for you by submitting the application to our department.

Burning Permits: Air Pollution Regulations prohibit open burning except under certain conditions stipulated by our department. You may obtain a burning permit by calling us at **301-759-5039.**

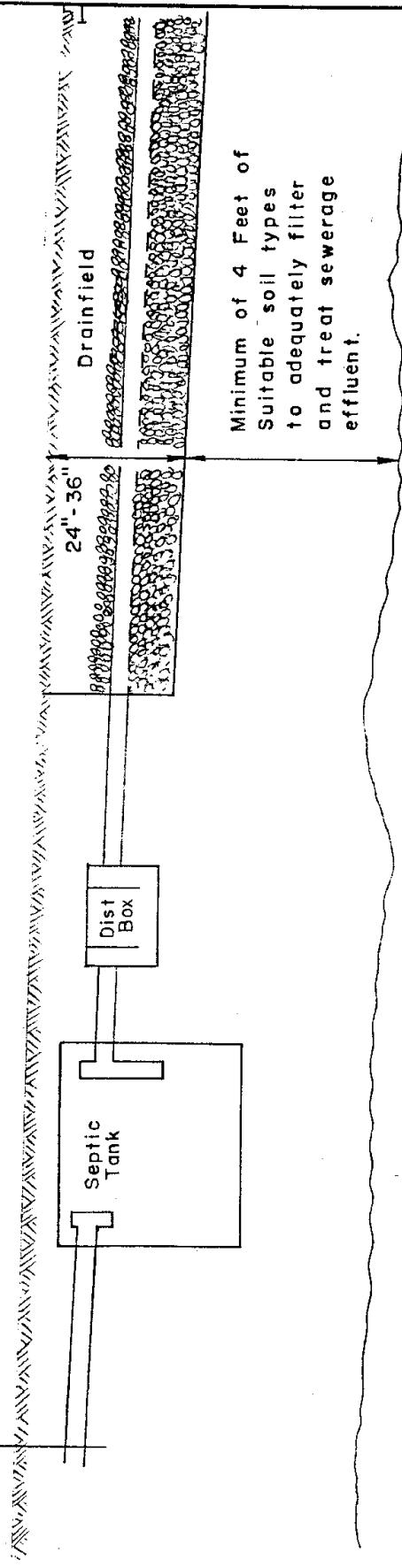
If you have any questions regarding these percolation instructions, please call **301-759-5039.**

SAMPLE LAYOUT SHOWING LOCATIONS OF PERCOLATION TEST HOLES,
EXCAVATION PIT, WELL DISTANCES, AND OTHER LIMITING
DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

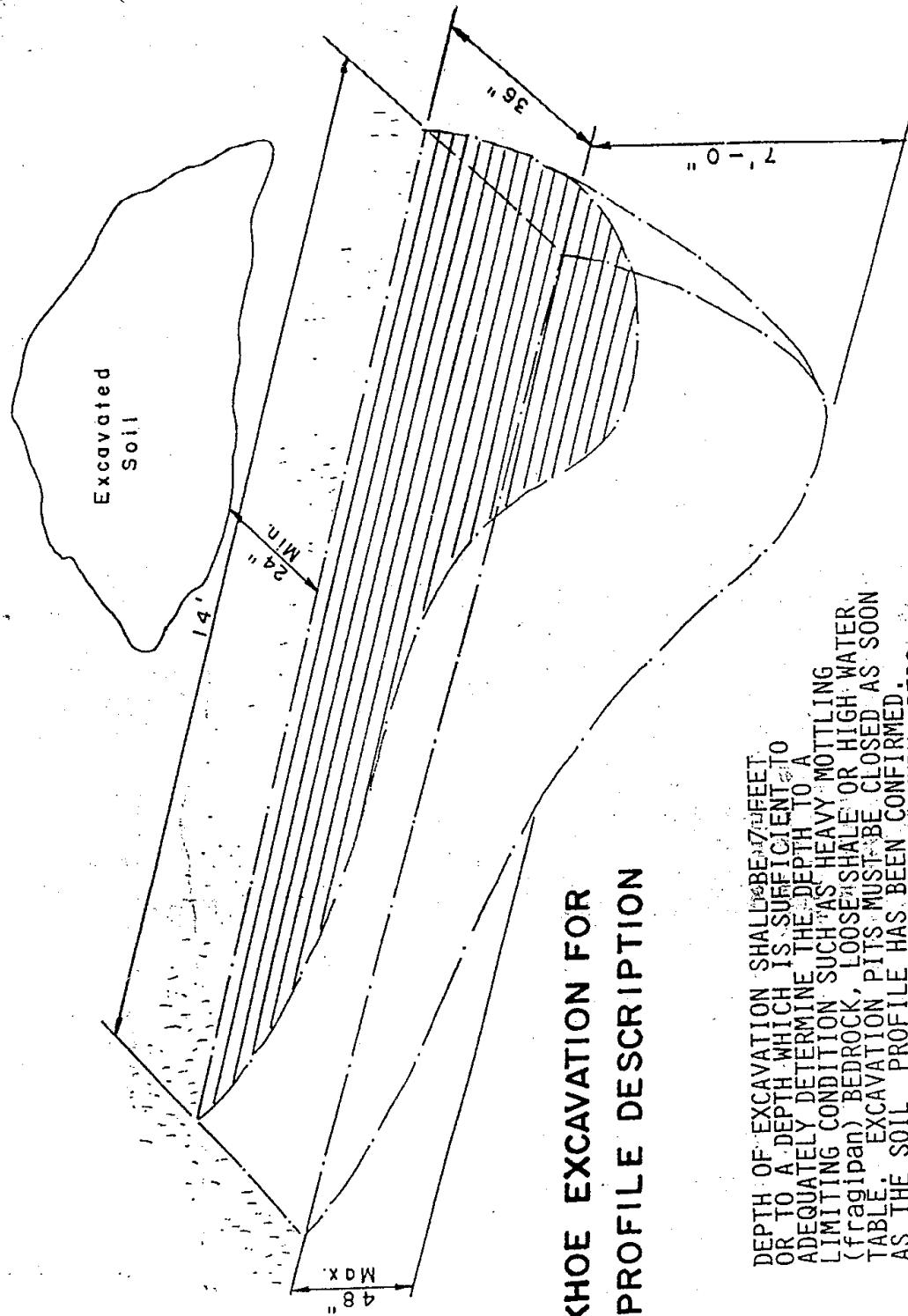


NOTE: THE DESIGNATED SEWAGE DISPOSAL AREA MARKED AND IDENTIFIED WITH FOUR PINK FLAGS, SHALL BE PRESERVED AND MAINTAINED FREE OF ANY BUILDINGS, ROADWAYS, DRIVEWAYS, SWIMMING POOLS, OR OTHER PROPOSED STRUCTURES.

The excavation pit is used to verify a suitable treatment zone, or buffer, of unsaturated unconsolidated material. This treatment zone is the soil or material beneath and to a depth of four feet below the bottom of the septic system drain field trenches. It is this material which attenuates or filters the sewage effluent before it reaches bedrock or the underground water table. The water table and underground aquifers supply the water source to a well. The suitability of the soils in this buffer zone will be determined by the sanitarian during the site evaluation and percolation testing.

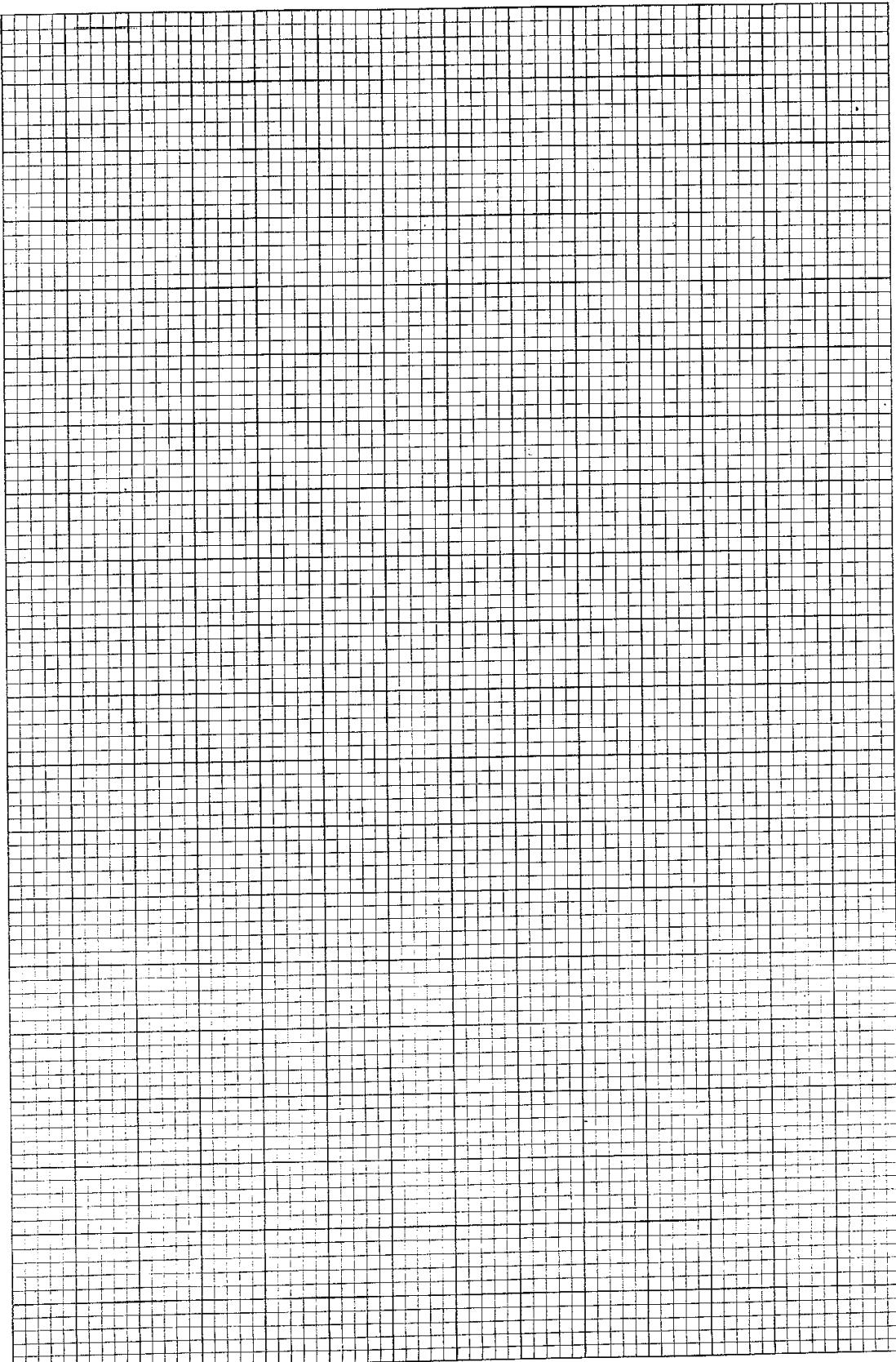


Bedrock, Consolidated Formation, Water Table



**BACKHOE EXCAVATION FOR
SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTION**

NOTE: DEPTH OF EXCAVATION SHALL BE 7 FEET OR TO A DEPTH WHICH IS SUFFICIENT TO ADEQUATELY DETERMINE THE DEPTH TO A LIMITING CONDITION SUCH AS HEAVY MOTTLING (fragipan) BEDROCK, LOOSE SHALE OR HIGH WATER TABLE. EXCAVATION PITS MUST BE CLOSED AS SOON AS THE SOIL PROFILE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED. CONCLUDING A SATISFACTORY SOIL STUDY, PERC TESTING, AND A SITE EVALUATION, THE DESIGNATED SEWAGE DISPOSAL AREA WILL BE DELINEATED WITH FOUR PINK FLAGS. THIS AREA MUST NOT BE ALTERED OR DISTURBED IN ANYWAY!



10 Squares to the Inch The property is marked with red flags as shown with the .
Area to be tested for sewage disposal showing the evaluation pit and
3 perc holes • #1, • #2, • #3.

APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM IN ITS ENTIRETY. ANY INFORMATION THAT IS NOT SUPPLIED MAY DELAY PROCESSING YOUR REQUEST. PROPERTY MUST HAVE THE FOUR CORNERS IDENTIFIED WITH THE ENCLOSED PINK RIBBONS.

APPLICANT NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____
CONTACT BY DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER: _____

DIRECTIONS TO THE PROPERTY: _____

CURRENT PROPERTY OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CONTACT BY DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER: _____

IF EXISTING SUBDIVISION, NAME: _____ SIZE (acreage): _____

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS IMMEDIATELY ON SIDES OF LAND:

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____ (N,S,E,W)

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____ (N,S,E,W)

Please make your check payable to the Allegany County Health Department in the amount of **\$200.00 per site** and return it with this application in the enclosed envelope. Please furnish site plan shown proposed use of property, i.e., house, driveways, swimming pool, drainage channels, streams, springs, etc., on the back of this application.

ALSO, please be informed that the septic system construction permit is an interim permit as set forth in COMAR 26.03.01.05. This notice is to inform you of the nature of an interim permit which requires connection to a future community system. This connection must be made within one year or less AFTER the public system becomes available. This is also transferred to new property owners should you sell this lot. By signing below, you are agreeing to connect to the public sewage system when it becomes available.

DATE _____ SIGNATURE _____

1ST choice testing date: _____ 2ND choice: _____



REMINDER: When returning this application to us, we need the site plan on back completed, your check payable to the Allegany Co. Health Dept., for \$200 and your signature on this application. Applications received without this information will not be processed.

HOMEOWNERS CONDUCTED SOIL PERCOLATION TEST PROCEDURE

Self-conducted percolation testing can be done to locate an acceptable sewage disposal area by at least one criteria, namely the movement of water through the soil. When you consider the proposed location of the sewage disposal area, bear in mind the separation distances required are as follows:

- A. 100ft away from the proposed well or any existing wells
- B. 100ft from any flowing stream
- C. 10ft from the property line
- D. 15ft from any roadway or proposed driveway
- E. 25ft from intermittent water channel

Depending on percolation rates, the required square footage for the sewage disposal area can range from 100 X 100 (10,000 square feet) up to 100 X 200 (20,000 square feet). When considering the area, prepare the three percolation holes randomly across the area at least 50 feet apart. Hole depth should vary with each hole; the first hole one foot deep; 2nd hole 2 feet deep and 3rd hole 3 feet deep as described in standard percolation test instructions, paragraph two. To conduct the test after preparing the holes, place a yardstick or measuring stick into the hole and pour water into the hole to the depth of 7" and time the period it drops one inch on the measuring stick. You should repeat the procedure for the second inch with the times recorded as indicated on the following chart:

Preliminary Percolation Test Results of Holes

	1ft hole	2ft hole	3ft hole
START TIME	7"		
FINISH TIME	6"		
SECOND FINISH	5"		

Call 301-759-5039 or 301-759-5042 to report your results and if the area qualifies as well as to request an official site evaluation and official soil percolation test conducted by a registered sanitarian on the qualifying holes.

THIS SELF CONDUCTED TEST IS TO HELP QUALIFY AN AREA PRIOR TO THE OFFICIAL TEST AND TO MINIMIZE EXPENSE OF MULTIPLE TESTS. SELF-CONDUCTED TESTS WILL NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, SERVE AS OFFICIAL RESULTS.

**Allegany County Health Department
Environmental Health Services
Mandatory Fee Structure
Effective September 1, 2005**

Type of Service	Fee
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Individual Wells and Septic System Programs:

Soil Evaluation/percolation testing	\$:
Ring Infiltrator Test	200.00
Septic System Permit	100.00
Septic Tank Replacement OR Repair Permit	50.00
Septic System Repair – Evaluation/design	75.00
Subdivision Plat Review \$25/plat + \$10/lot	
Well Construction Permit	125.00