COUNTY OF COLUSA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**
1213 Market Street, Colusa, CA 95932
(530) 458-0888

# How to Apply for an On-Site Wastewater Disposal Permit

State law establishes minimum state-wide standards for the design and construction of on-site wastewater disposal system. Colusa County through the adoption of its Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) has been able to implement additional flexibility in these State standards to recognize local soil, climate, and other conditions. In order to evaluate proposed on-site wastewater disposal permits, the Environmental Health Division must receive certain information in order to verify that a proposed system complies with the applicable laws and regulations. The following guide has been prepared to help assist in developing the minimum required information which needs to be submitted for review. An overview is as follows:

I. Submit completed application and plot plan,
II. Perform soil testing, site review, and provide any other information required by Environmental Health,
III. Submit on-site wastewater disposal design,
IV. Review by Environmental Health and,
V. Permit processing.

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## I. Application and Plot Plan

A. Complete the permit application with signature and date signed.

B. Submit a clearly drawn to scale drawing showing the exact locations of the following items (as applicable), whether existing or proposed:

1. Scale used and north arrow,
2. Name of person preparing plot plan,
3. Property lines,
4. Paved areas (including driveways, sidewalks, patios, pool decks, etc.),
5. Unpaved areas subject to vehicular traffic,
6. Structures (including pools, carports, decks, shops, covered patios, gazebos, etc.)
7. On-site wastewater disposal system (septic tank, sewer lines, cleanouts, leach lines, distribution system, etc.)
8. On-site wastewater disposal system 100% disposal field replacement area location,
9. Slope of lot (on slopes show contour lines),
10. Well and abandoned wells,
11. Off-site wells, abandoned wells located less than 100 feet from property lines,
12. Water lines,
13. Trees within 10 feet of on-site wastewater disposal system or 100% disposal field replacement area,

14. Streams, canals, culverts, ditches, lakes, ponds, areas subject to flooding, stormwater runoff or inundation, and any body of water (intermittent or perennial),
15. Streams, canals, culverts, ditches, lakes, ponds, areas subject to flooding, stormwater runoff or inundation, and any body of water (intermittent or perennial) within 50 feet of property lines,
16. Ten-year flood plain,
17. Ten year flood plain within 100 feet of property,
18. Cutbanks, escarpments, man-made cuts,
19. Easements,
20. Other: _____

Note: Some of these items may not be applicable. In addition, it may not be possible to show items 7 and 8 for new projects until soil testing and site review have been completed, but a general area proposed for these items should be designated on the plot plan. For repair of existing system show all items listed.

II. Soil Testing, Site Review and Other Information

A. In order to determine on-site wastewater disposal requirements, soil testing is required. This involves excavating at least two (2) soil test holes - one in the area proposed for wastewater disposal and one in the replacement disposal field. If your property is part of a recently approved subdivision, soil testing may have already been done.

Soil test holes are to be excavated the morning of inspection. Soil test holes need to be 8 feet deep x 3 feet wide x 5 feet long with a landing at 5 feet. Please stair step the test holes allowing the inspector to walk down to the 5-foot landing. Test holes are usually spaced seventy-five (75) feet apart. When completed, call the Environmental Health Division (530-458-0395) to arrange for an inspection. The test holes can usually be inspected within 2 working days of notification. The Environmental Health staff can usually determine the disposal requirements from the test holes. However, in certain unique additional testing may be required. Additional tests may include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

1. Additional and/or deeper soil test holes *;
2. Percolation tests;
3. Evaluation by a registered soil scientist, civil engineer, or geologist,
4. Wet-weather testing;
5. Wet-weather groundwater observation.

B. A site review is usually performed by Environmental Health at the same time as soil testing, in order to verify the accuracy of the information on the plot plan.

C. Certain unique projects due to unusual or large flow amounts may require additional information and/or may be subject to the review of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

D. If site conditions fail to meet applicable standards or if unusual conditions exist, permits may not be able to be issued at this point until additional testing or engineering is performed.

III. On-Site Wastewater Disposal Design

As part of the submitted plot plan (Section 1.B) the following information should be included:

A. Layout of on-site wastewater disposal system and 100% disposal field replacement area;

B. Exact location of soil test holes, percolation tests, groundwater monitoring, and other tests.

IV. Environmental Health staff will review all information submitted for compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

V. Permit will be issued or modifications will be requested to address unique conditions. In rare cases, permits may not be able to be issued due to severe site conditions or design requirements.

**Minimum Horizontal Setback Distances for Wastewater Treatment Systems**

(Table 2.2 from Colusa County Onsite Systems Manuel)

| Site Feature | Minimum Setback Distance (feet) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | To Building Sewer | To Septic Tank[1] | To Disposal Field |
| Building or structures | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| Property line adjoining private property | Clear | 5 | 5 |
| Non-public water supply wells and springs | 50 | 100 | 100 |
| Public water supply wells | 50 | 150 | 150[2] |
| Streams (perennial or seasonal flow) | | | |
| • General (from top of bank) | - | 100 | 100 |
| • Between 1,200 to 2,500 ft from public water system intake[3] | - | 100 | 200 |
| • Within 1,200 ft from public water system intake[3] | - | 100 | 400 |
| Lakes and Reservoirs (from high water mark) | | | |
| • General | - | 200 | 200 |
| • Within 1,200 feet from a public water supply intake[3] | - | 400 | 400 |
| Non-classified stream or drainage ditch | - | 25 | 25 |
| Cuts or steep embankments (from top of cut/embankment) | - | 10 | 4 X h[4,5] |
| Unstable land mass | - | 100 | 100[5] |
| Large trees | - | 10 | - |
| Disposal field | - | 5 | 4 |
| Onsite domestic water line | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| Distribution box | - | - | 5 |
| Pressure public water main | 10 | 10 | 10 |