



Percolation Test

Percolation tests help determine how well soil can absorb waste water. They must be performed by a Septic System Contractor under the direction of a Registered Geologist, Civil or Soils Engineer or California Registered Environmental Health Specialist and witnessed by this Department.

- Preparation
 - Have a Site Evaluation & Soil Profile with the Septic System Designer & an Inspector from this Department to determine where holes should be located.
 - Dig at least 3 holes in the proposed primary leach field & 3 holes in the proposed secondary leach field. Distances between holes must be between 15' & 40'. Hole area must be free of fissures, gopher holes, etc. See diagram below.
 - Keep holes filled with water the day before the test. Provide an adequate supply of water for the day of the test.
 - Call Inspector 3 business days in advance to arrange for the test.
- Testing
 - The contractor will perform the test, the Inspector will witness.
 - Keep at least 6" of water in the hole.
 - Record water levels every 30 minutes for 4 hours. If hole runs dry, you can do 10 minute readings for 2 hours.

