

## Compliance Tests (R317-4)

Plans for the onsite wastewater systems require the following:

Statement of soil conditions obtained from **soil exploration** pit(s) dug (preferably by backhoe) to a depth of 10 feet in the absorption system area, or to the ground water table if it is shallower than 10 feet below ground surface. In the event that absorption system excavations will be deeper than six feet, **soil exploration** pits must extend to a depth of at least four feet below the bottom of the proposed absorption system excavation. One end of each pit should be sloped gently to permit easy entry if necessary. Whenever possible data from published **soil studies** of the site should also be submitted. Soil logs should be prepared in accordance with the United States Department of Agriculture soil classification system.

The results of at least one stabilized **percolation test** for the design flow less than 2,000 gallons per day, or three tests if the design flow is more than 2,000 gallons per day, but less than 5,000 gallons per day, in the area of the proposed absorption system, conducted according to requirements found in R317-4&5. **Percolation tests** should be conducted at a depth of six inches below the bottom of the proposed absorption system excavation and test results should be submitted on a "**Percolation Test Certificate**" obtainable upon request. If a deep wall trench or seepage pit is proposed, a completed "Deep Wall Trench Construction Certificate" may be submitted if percolation tests are not required.

Both the **percolation test** and the **soil exploration** determine the suitability of the soil for the installation of an onsite wastewater system at the proposed location. The digging of the **soil exploration** pit will also allow the inspector to determine the maximum anticipated water table. If water is too close to the surface, a septic tank and drain field or deep trench would not be an acceptable alternative.