

Soil Profile Site Preparation

Instructions For Your Septic System

A soil profile determines the size of the absorption field required for your residence by identifying and characterizing the soil. Depending on the type of soil at your location, soil test results can vary widely. Typically, porous soils (sandy) will allow the use of subsurface absorption fields while nonporous soils (clay) require lagoons, evapotranspiration/absorption systems or aerobic systems. There are provisions for alternative system types. Soil profiles must be performed by Certified Soil Profilers.

According to Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) rules at OAC 252:641, a septic system must maintain a 50-foot separation from water wells. When installing a lagoon system, the separation distance must be 100 feet if the ground slopes toward the water supply.

Keep in mind that Oklahoma Water Resources Board rules at OAC 785:35 require a 50-foot separation if a water well is uphill from an onsite septic system, 75 feet if a water well is on the same level as the system, and 100 feet if a water well is downhill from the system.

Locating An Area For Your Soil Profile Test

- The soil test must be located on the same property as the proposed residence.
- Locate the soil test downhill from the residence and in the area where you want the absorption field to be.
- Locate the soil test area at least 15 feet from water lines or creeks, 5 feet from your property lines and a minimum of 50 feet from water wells (see drawing, right).
- Locate and identify the property lines (stakes if possible).
- Stake the proposed house location.

Preparing The Site For Your Soil Profile

- Mark property with address or owner's name to assist utility companies with finding the correct residence.
- Flag three test hole locations.
- Clear away tall grass and other obstacles from the testing field.
- Leave one 5-gallon bucket of water at the site for use during the soil profile.

Reminder: Before you make any additions to a subsurface absorption fields or install a new disposal field, you are required by law to have it inspected by the DEQ or a Certified Installer.

