SHASTA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Land Use Percolation Test

Parcel/Lot #_____ Date: _____

Property Owner:_____ Weather: _____

Location:_____ Performed by: _____

	Number of Fillings	Time of Measure-ment	Water Level From Surface	Drop In Water Level	Comments & Observations
Hole No:					
Depth:					
Diameter or size:					
Pre-soak start time:					
Soaked overnight?					
Location:					
Remarks:					
Results:					
minutes/inch					
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Soaked overnight?					**Comments & Observations**
Location:					
Remarks:					
Results:					
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minutes/inch					

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that these data are true and correct, and that correct test procedures have been followed.

_____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERCOLATION TEST
(Manual of Septic Tank Practice Method)

Complete instructions for these percolation tests are printed in the Shasta County Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Technical Guidance Manual. Please refer to the manual if you have any questions at all in test procedure.

Step 1 Excavate percolation holes to a depth of 36" in area of proposed disposal site (tests may, on occasion, be requested at other depths).

Step 2 If needed, carefully scratch the sides and bottom of percolation holes with a sharp pointed instrument to remove any smeared soil surfaces. After removing any loose material, you may place up to 2" of coarse sand or fine gravel into bottom of hole.

Step 3 **Pre-soak** the percolation hole as follows:

Fill the hole with clear water to at least 12" over the gravel. Add water as needed to keep water in the hole for at least **4 hours**.

Determine the percolation rate **24 hours** after first adding water to the hole. (Step 4)

In sandy soil with little or no clay, the percolation test may be conducted after water from one filling of the hole has seeped away.

Step 4

A. **If water remains** in the hole after the overnight swelling period, adjust the depth to approximately 6" over the gravel. Measure the drop in water level over a single 30 minute period and calculate the percolation rate.

B. **If no water remains** after the overnight swelling period, add water to bring the depth of water in the hole to approximately 6" over the gravel. Measure the drop in water depth at 30 minute intervals for 4 hours, refilling to 6" over the gravel as necessary. Use the drop that occurs in the final 30 minutes to calculate the percolation rate.

C. In sandy soil (or in other soils in which the 6" of water seeps away in less than 30 minutes in the first two 30 minute intervals after the overnight swelling period), measure the drop in water level at 10 minute intervals for 1 hour. The drop that occurs during the final 10 minutes is used to calculate the percolation rate.

Step 5 Backfill the holes.

Name: Pit# %Slope Date:

Depth: SAMPLE:

Color/chip

Gravelly very extremely BE Pea 3/4 1-1/2 2-3
15-35% 35-65% >65%

Texture:

Mottles: few 2% common 2-20% many >20%

Present fine <5 mm medium 5-15mm large >15 mm

Absent faint distinct prominent

Structure: Massive, single grain, weak, moderate, strong

granular, platy, prismatic, columnal, abk, sbk

Consistence: lo, so, sh, h, vhy, exh
lo, vy frb, frb, frm, v frm, exfrm
ns, ss, s, vs, np sp, p, vp

Roots:

	vy fine 1 mm	fine 1-2 mm	medium 2-5 mm	coarse 5-10 mm
Few	<10	<10	<1	<1
Common	10-100	10-100	1-10	1-5
Many	>100	>100	>10	>5

Pores:

	vy fine 0.1-0.5 mm	fine 0.5-2 mm	medium 2-5 mm	coarse 5-10 mm
Few	<25	<10	<1	<1
Common	25-200	10-50	1-5	1-2.5
Many	>200	>50	>5	>2.5

Boundary: abrupt <1 clear 1" to 2.5" gradual 2.5" to 5" diffuse >5"

0 10 20 30
|....| | | | | |

○ 2 mm ◯ 5 mm

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