

Percolation Test Procedure

- (1) A minimum of three test holes (preferably 4) distributed evenly over the proposed lateral field is required.
- (2) Percolation test holes shall be 4 to 12 inches in diameter and to the same depth as the proposed absorption trenches (not to exceed 36 inches in depth).
- (3) Sides and bottoms of the test holes shall be scratched or roughened to provide a natural surface. All loose material shall be removed from each hole.
- (4) The bottoms of the test holes shall be covered with approximately 2 inches of rock to protect the bottom from scouring action when the water is added.
- (5) The hole shall be filled with clean water and shall be kept full for at least 4 hours and preferably overnight if clay soils are present. It is important that the soil be allowed to soak for a sufficiently long period of time to allow the soil to swell if accurate results are to be obtained.**
- (6) Except for sandy soils, percolation rate measurements should be made at least 4 hours but no more than 24 hours after the soaking period began. Any soil that sloughed into the hole during the soaking period must be removed.
- (7) Fill the hole so that the water level is measured from a fixed reference point to the nearest 1/8 inch at 15 - minute intervals. The test is continued for one hour creating four measured drops.
- (8) After each measurement, the water level is readjusted to the reference point. The 4th measured water level drop is used to calculate the percolation rate.
- (9) After the test is completed enter the data from the test on the on-line permitting system. The computer will calculate the percolation rate and show the system specifications required to install a properly sized system.

Use the graph below to chart your results:

Percolation Test Information:

Percolation test : _____, **Taken by:** _____
(date) (signature)

	1st Hole	2nd Hole	3rd Hole	4th Hole
1st 15 min. interval				
2nd 15 min. interval				
3rd 15 min. interval				
4th 15 min. interval				