

Environmental Health
Improvement Permit and Construction Authorization
Application Information

What's it about?

An Improvement Permit and Construction Authorization are the permits needed to install a septic system. These permits are required before a building permit can be obtained for a house, place of business or any that has indoor plumbing. The Environmental Health office makes sure that the proposed site for the structure meets the laws and rules of North Carolina as described in the Laws and Rules for Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems. This is sometimes referred to as "perking the land." It is recommended that you allow us to evaluate a potential house site before you purchase the property to make sure the property can support a septic system

What is my responsibility?

A site plan must accompany your application (see separate site plan worksheet.) The site plan must show the desired structure size and location (measured in feet from the property lines), and any other pertinent information such as existing wells, power lines, easements, right of way, etc. A site plan worksheet will be given to you at the time you apply and may be completed at home. We cannot evaluate your lot until the completed site plan worksheet has been returned to our office. If the property is not in your name, we need a note from the current landowner giving us permission to evaluate his or her land.

The property corners and desired structure location must be clearly marked on the lot and must correspond with the site plan. Orange and Blue flags will be given to you when you apply so that you may place them on the four corners (Orange) of the property and the desired location of the structure (Blue). The property must not be overgrown to the extent that we cannot perform our job. You may be asked to partially clear the property if undergrowth is so thick that we cannot access it. We also need a survey map of your property.

It is your responsibility to check with other agencies that may require approval before you apply with us. Examples: Zoning requirements, wetland designation, extra-territorial jurisdiction, etc.

What do I need to know about my permits?

Attached to the Construction Authorization will be a plot plan showing the property and the location of the septic system on the property. If the soil and site conditions allow, the septic system will be located near your desired structure location to permit gravity sewage flow from the structure to the tank.

Sometimes the soil and site conditions may restrict the location of the septic system to a specific area/ If your desired structure location cannot access the septic system by gravity sewage flow, then you may need to relocate the structure. If the structure cannot be relocated, a sewage effluent pump may be required to access the system.

Once a permit has been issued, care must be taken to locate the structure and assemble the plumbing to accommodate the septic system as specified on the permit. For example, if a permit specifying gravity sewage flow has been issued, the structure location and/or plumbing depth should not prevent gravity sewage flow. If it does, a Revision must be requested (\$100.00) that may require a sewage effluent pump.

What types of septic systems are available?

As part of the application, you will be asked what type of septic system you desire. Your choices are:

- **Conventional System:** In ground gravity flow system. This system is the type we would normally design if the soil and site conditions meet all the laws and rules.
- **Modified Conventional System:** The soil and site conditions may require the system to be modified to meet the rules. These modifications may include installing the system shallow, drainage, grave less trenches, or interceptor drains.
- **Alternative Sewage System:** The soil and site conditions may require the use of an alternative system. An alternative system may include a low-pressure pipe system, a fill(mound) system, or aerobic sewage treatment units (ATU).
- **Experimental or Innovative System:** These systems are not specifically described in the rules. An experimental system is approved by the State as part of a research or testing program. An innovative system has received approval by the State after meeting the standards set forth in the approval process. Approved innovative systems include polystyrene aggregate systems and chamber systems.

For more information, visit the On-Site Wastewater website at www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/oww

Fee Refunds

A fee refund can only be requested if the site has not been evaluated. If the site is never evaluated because you have failed to provide us with the information needed within 90 days, a new application will need to be filled out and the fee paid again.

If the site has been evaluated and found to be unsuitable for a septic system, an alternate site may be chosen, and the fee transferred to the new site.

I have read and understand the above information. I understand that I have certain responsibilities that must be fulfilled before Environmental Health can evaluate my site.

If you have a question about any part of this process, please do not hesitate to call us at (910) 862-6852. Our office hours are 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday.

Date

Applicant's Signature