

SEWAGE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS:

- I. It shall be unlawful for any person to construct, alter, or extend private sewage disposal systems within Coles County unless he holds a valid permit issued by the Coles County Health Department stating the name of such person for which the specific construction, alteration, or extension, is proposed. Said permit shall indicate a maximum permissible waste loading.
- II. All applications for permits granted under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be made to the Coles County Health Department.
- III. A permit shall only be issued to an Illinois Licensed Private Sewage Disposal Installation Contractor who is registered in Coles County or to a homeowner installing his own private sewage disposal system.
- IV. Permit application forms provided by the Coles County Health Department shall be completed and signed by each applicant and shall include the following:
 1. Name and address of the applicant and lot and block number or legal description of the proposed site of construction, alteration, or extension.
 2. Complete plan of the proposed private sewage disposal system with substantiating data, if necessary, attesting to its compliance with the minimum standards of the Coles County Private Sewage Disposal System Ordinance.
- V. The Coles County Health Department may refuse to grant a permit for the construction of a private sewage disposal system where public or community sewage systems are available. A sewer shall be deemed available when a public sewer line is in place within any street, alley, right of way, or easement that adjoins or abuts the premises for which the permit is requested, or when the improvement to be served is located within a reasonable distance of a public sewer to which a connection is practical and is permitted by the controlling authority for the sewer. A reasonable distance for the purpose of this provision shall be deemed to be not greater than 300 feet for a single family residence and not greater than 1,000 feet for a commercial establishment or multi-family dwelling.
- VI. In order to determine the type and size of private sewage disposal system to be installed for a particular application, it is necessary to first perform percolation tests at the site of the proposed installation. At least two percolation tests are required and shall be conducted by a Private Sewage Disposal System Installation Contractor holding a valid Coles County Registration Certificate, an Illinois Registered Sanitarian, an Illinois Registered Engineer or Architect, a Soil Scientist, homeowner or person given written permission by the Health Department, or the authorized representative of the Health Department. The Health Department reserves the right to determine the validity of any test and in cases where more than one set of tests have been performed the Health Department shall determine which tests results shall prevail. The Health Department shall be notified at least one day prior to the performance of all tests and may supervise any test.
- VII. Said permit to construct is valid for a period of six months from date of issuance. If construction has not started within this period, the permit is void.

**COLES COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION**

825 Eighteenth Street
Charleston, IL 61920
(217) 348-0530 or 258-0530

PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING PERCOLATION TEST

- A. At least three separate percolation tests are required to be performed at the site of the proposed disposal area. The holes must be at least 50 feet apart. Select an area where the system will be located. Three holes shall be prepared and tested. One test hole shall be located at the lowest elevation of the proposed absorption field area. The two test holes with highest results shall be used to determine percolation rate. The test holes shall not be made in frozen ground or ground which has been filled in the preceding 12 months.
- B. Type of Test Hole. Dig or bore a hole with horizontal dimensions of approximately four to six inches in diameter to the depth of the proposed seepage field or seepage bed (24" to 36").
- C. Preparation of Test Hole. Carefully scratch the bottom and sides of the hole with a knife blade or sharp pointed instrument to provide a natural interface into which water may percolate. Remove all loose material from the hole. Add two inches of coarse gravel to protect the bottom from scouring and sediment. Hardware cloth or screen may be used to protect the side walls.
- D. Saturation and Swelling of Soil. The day before conducting the test presoak the hole by carefully filling it with water and **keeping it full for four (4) hours. The start of the test must begin no sooner than 18 hours and no later than 30 hours after presoaking the hole.** At the start of the test, adjust the water level to twelve (12) inches above the gravel. Allow the water level to drop six (6) inches, record the time, and then commence measuring and recording the drop in water level at thirty-minute intervals until all the water has seeped away.
- E. After determining the time required for the last six (6) inches of water to fall, average the two highest results, and refer to the chart below to determine the minimum amount of seepage field required:

Time (min.) required for the last 6" of water to fall	For residential use required absorption area (ft sq/bdrs)	Institutional or commercial use (GPD/ft sq)
18-30	130	1.6
60	165	1.2
90	210	1.0
120	235	0.9
150	265	0.8
180	290	0.7
240	320	0.6
300	350	0.6
360	385	0.5

- 1. If there is more than 30 minutes difference between results, use the larger result or do another test.
- 2. Seepage beds require 1½ times the seepage field absorption area specified.
- 3. Under 18 or over 360 is unsuitable for subsurface seepage system.

PERCOLATION TEST DATA

I, _____, have taken percolation tests in accordance with the procedures as required by the Coles County Health Department. Required information is submitted as follows:

DATE OF TEST: _____

	TEST HOLE #1	TEST HOLE #2	TEST HOLE #3
1. Time when hole was completely filled with water			
2. Time when hole was refilled to 12 inches above gravel on bottom			
3. Time when test was begun with 6 inches of water above gravel on bottom			

PERCOLATION WORKSHEET:

READING #	TEST HOLE #1	TEST HOLE #2				TEST HOLE #3			
	TIME (in minutes)	WATER LEVEL (in inches)		TIME (in minutes)	WATER LEVEL (in inches)		TIME (in minutes)	WATER LEVEL (in inches)	
		1st Test	2nd Test		1st Test	2nd Test		1st Test	2nd Test
1	0			0			0		
2	30			30			30		
3	60			60			60		
4	90			90			90		
5	120			120			120		
6	150			150			150		
7	180			180			180		
8	210			210			210		
9	240			240			240		
10	270			270			270		
11	300			300			300		
12	330			330			330		
13	360			360			360		

SIGNATURE

DATE

The Health Department shall be notified prior to all percolation test.