



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Greene County

Fact Sheet for Site and Soil Evaluation of Vacant Land

A proper design for a new sewage system is dependent on an accurate evaluation of the soil. Ohio Regulations require each vacant parcel that is proposed for an onsite sewage treatment system to first be evaluated by a certified soils evaluator. Greene County Public Health maintains a list of soils evaluators that are known to work in our county, and would be happy to provide you with a copy.

The evaluator will examine and report on the composition and depth of the soils. Two distinct areas on the property will be evaluated to ensure that, should the primary area fail, a replacement area is available.

Once the soil evaluation has been completed, the next step is to design the system. While some soil evaluators will also design an onsite sewage system, often this information is passed on to a designer of your choice. The system design utilizes the soils information to determine how much leaching area is needed, how long each line must be, and whether any pretreatment of the sewage is required.

The designer will draw a diagram of the lot, house, and leaching system. Then, this information is filed with our office for review. A sanitarian will make an onsite visit to confirm the soils information, and determine whether the proposed design meets the regulations. There is a fee associated with this design review.

Once the lot and design has been evaluated, a letter will be sent to you indicating whether the Health District approves the design, and if certain conditions must be met as a condition of approval. Once a design is approved, it is good for a period of five (5) years. Before construction on the system begins, an installation permit must then be purchased from the Health District.