

Wastewater Policy for Percolation Tests and Soil Profile Evaluations

The purpose of performing percolation tests, soil profile evaluations, and soil texture analysis is to assess soil suitability for onsite wastewater systems. Cold temperatures and precipitations (ground freeze, soil saturation, etc.) can and does lead to inaccurate results. As a result of performing percolation tests when conditions are not suitable, onsite wastewater systems may end up being over-sized or sites may even be rejected. Therefore the Weber-Morgan Health Department operates under the following policy:

1. All percolation tests and soil profile holes are to be evaluated by staff from the office of Environmental Health.
2. Appointments for percolation tests and soil profile evaluations must be made at least two business days prior to the percolation test and soil profile evaluation.
3. Soils profile holes may be evaluated during cold weather periods provided our office receives sufficient notification so as to be able to have a staff member on site as the hole is being excavated. Soil profile evaluations without a percolation test will need to be followed-up with a percolation test when the conditions are suitable as described in this policy. Additional fees may be assessed for site evaluations if follow-up visits are required to complete work due to site conditions.
4. Soil classifications will not be conducted if any portion of the soils are frozen.
5. Percolation tests will not be conducted from December 1st through March 1st. In addition, percolation tests will not be performed during any cold weather period unless the ambient air temperature is above 35 degrees Fahrenheit both day and night for a minimum of 48 hours.

Site evaluations will not be conducted if more than 6 inches of snow is covering the property, or if snow has fallen inside the soils test pit. Percolation tests will not be performed at anytime when the ground around the percolation test hole is saturated from factors other than the percolation test itself