

THE SANITARY PERMIT PROCESS:

Prior to issuing a zoning permit for a building to be serviced by a private on-site wastewater system (POWTS), a sanitary permit must be applied for and issued.

- A soil tester will file a soil test with the County after they have been on the property, verifying and reporting the types of soils in the area of the proposed POWTS. This is done by digging at least one pit and two borings.
- They analyze:
 - Color (Munsell color chart)
 - Texture (sand, sandy loam, silt, clay)
 - Structure (grade, size, & shape)
 - Consistence (resistance to pressure)
 - Boundary (smooth, wavy, abrupt)
 - Roots (quantity, size, location, depth)

Using the table listed in SPS 383.44 and the above soil results, the soil application rate is determined. Plumbers use the application rate and the number of bedrooms of the building served to calculate a suitable system size. The soil tester also determines how many inches of suitable soil are present at each location. The depth of suitable soil dictates what type(s) of system can be constructed at that site.

- Most common types of septic systems are Conventional, Mound, At-grades, and Holding tanks.
 - System chosen based on soil test results and owner preference
- The plumber or designer draws up the plans for the proposed POWTS, based on the system chosen and the number of bedrooms planned for the house
- Plans for Conventional and holding tanks less than 3000 gals are reviewed and issued by the County.
- Plans for Mounds, At-Grades, and Industrial Holding Tanks (or over 3,000 gal) are sent by the plumber to the State offices for review and approval.
*Because of intensity of calculations involved in pressurized systems or possible risk to the environment).
- Upon approval the plumber submits them to the County office for issuance/inspection.

The plumber will call our office and set-up a date and time for the inspector to make an on-site visit to verify that the POWTS is being installed per code.

The inspection takes place after the installation is complete, before the system is backfilled.

Measurements are taken of the building sewer, septic tank, force main, and drainfield. Measurements are also taken to determine setbacks from the well, any surface water, buildings, property lines, etc...

At the office the inspector draws up the as-built and sanitary report based on the data collected at the inspection site.

As-builts are filed in the office for future reference and for the annual audit by the State.