



HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Our mission is to promote and protect the health of the people of Lake County through education and the enforcement of public health laws

Parcel and Test Pit Preparation for Site Evaluations

Preparing the parcel:

The lot needs to be marked with the street address at the roadside. The corners of the property need to be marked clearly with stakes and flagging material. If this is acreage, then you need to provide a map of where on the property the holes will be located, showing the lot lines and any useful landmarks. A path must be cleared to provide easy access for the evaluation if the property is heavily brushed, overgrown with thistle, or poison oak. All or a portion of the parcel must be cleared to assess the slope of the land.

Preparing the test pits:

A minimum of two test pits must be prepared, **one day prior**, in the area of the proposed onsite wastewater treatment/disposal field. To provide for pit stabilization and safe access, standard test pits for site evaluations must be prepared in the following manner:

- 1) The bottom of the pit shall be at least 2 feet wide and 4 feet long.
- 2) The depth shall be at least 5 feet and shall not exceed 5 feet.
- 3) In some instances, pits need only be excavated to the layer of hard rock or to the water table if that layer is less than 5 feet.
- 4) Roots blocking access into the test pits must be removed so as to provide easy access for inspection.
- 5) See illustration below for an example of properly prepared test pits.
- 6) **Prior to the arrival of the inspector: wet the area to minimize the dust.**

