



## Corporation of the Township of Norwich

285767 Airport Road

Norwich, Ontario

N0J 1P0

# Procedure for Test Pits and Soils Samples when conducting Site Evaluation for New or Replacement Sewage Systems

## PURPOSE

The following is a procedure outlining the necessary steps to test and inspect soils or existing subsoil and hydro-geological conditions in consideration to construction, alteration, repair, or replacement of a Sewage System designed and constructed under Pt. 8 of the Ontario Building Code. It has been designed with the purpose of prevention of unintentional spoilage or alteration that may affect the test results or information gathered from the sample or test. This procedure will not prevent intentional misrepresentation of sampling or test results.

**The act of intentionally tampering or altering a test or a sample for the purposes of manipulating or misrepresenting data may be considered falsification of information provided in an application to permit construction, and is therefore prohibited by the Building Code Act of Ontario.**

## LIMITATIONS

This procedure is in addendum to the prescribed requirements of the Ontario Building Code Div. B 8.2.1.2. for site evaluations, and may be used to:

- obtain verified samples for determination of the **soil percolation time** as per the **Unified Soil Classification System** via the below procedure for Test Pit,
- determination of subsoil characteristics with respect to **high ground water table** (as defined by OBC Div. A, 1.4.1.2.).
- characterize the suitability of the site for installation of a Class I, II III, IV or V sewage system
- discern the suitability of installation of an “**in-ground**” **leaching bed**, or a “**raised**” (**fill based**) **leaching bed** serving a class IV system.

The procedure for conducting a test pit commensurate to a site evaluation by the Building Department will be as follows;

## PROCEEDURE FOR TEST/OBSERVATION PIT

1. Obtain appropriate locates from Ontario One Call Service at <https://www.ontarioonecall.ca/portal/> or **1-800-400-2255**

2. A qualified person or the owner may make a request for an inspection of a Test Pit **at least 24 hrs. in advance of the desired inspection time.**

(**NOTE:** an additional fee may be required if the purpose for the test pit is to comply with the requirement of a site plan control agreement, conditions of subdivision agreement, or conditions of approval by the committee of adjustment)

3. With equipment capable of completing the work within 10 minutes or less, and following related OHSA regulations and requirements for excavations, safely excavate the test pit as per **Diagram 1-1** – the **min. dimensions should be 6' deep, x 2' wide at the bottom, and 6' - 8' long/wide at the surface and sufficiently sloped back to prevent collapse.**

**NOTE:** if the hole is dug in advance of the inspectors' arrival, ensure that the hole is secured from unauthorized entry by way of fencing, covers, and signage providing information about the hole. **DO NOT** leave the test pit unattended unless secured against unauthorized entry.

4. The Building Inspector will attend the site at or about the confirmed time, and upon attending the site shall make observations of the site and the relevant soil profiles within the test pit, record them and prepare a report.
5. With the aid of a qualified on-site supervisor a sample of the soils within the relevant profile as determined by the site supervisor and inspector will be collected.
6. The Test Pit shall be backfilled and compacted so as to prevent erosion or settlement prior to the supervisor leaving the site.

**NOTE:** test/observation pits are not permitted to remain open for any period exceeding the parameters of this procedure.

## **SOIL SAMPLE REQUIREMENTS**

7. The person requesting the inspection shall provide a container sufficient to hold the sample and submit to a certified soils test facility for testing
8. The sample is required to be not less than **1 litre of soil** material.
9. The sample shall be delivered to an **accredited soils laboratory** for review and analysis by the person requesting the site evaluation.
10. Any fees for testing are payable by the applicant/owner or qualified person.
11. The soils testing shall be conducted in conformance with the procedure established by the Unified Soils Classification System in accordance with ASTM D2487
12. A **sieve analysis report is to be completed by a certified soils technician and reviewed by a registered geoscientist or Professional Engineer (P. Eng.) with APGO credentials**, and returned to the applicant requesting the test.
13. Proof of the accreditation of a soils lab with the APGO may be required by the Chief Building Official at any time.
14. **A copy of the verified sieve analysis report resulting from following this procedure** may be used and submitted to the Township for review **in support of a septic permit application**. Unqualified reports or tests not collected in accordance with this procedure may not be used.

Diagram 1-1

