



Mariposa County Health Department

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT POLICY

DIFFERENTIATING "SOIL" FROM "ROCK" FOR PURPOSES OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

91-6

I. "Soil" is the unconsolidated material lying naturally and undisturbed on the surface of the earth which possesses percolative, infiltrative and biological and physical filtration capabilities. Material, to be considered "soil" by the definition above, must be composed of at least 30% materials which meet the USDA size characteristics below:

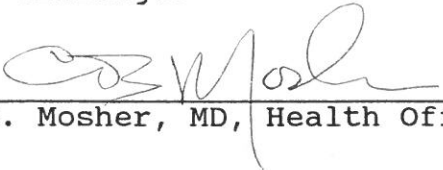
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SIZE LIMITS FOR SOIL SEPARATES

<u>Soil Separate</u>	<u>Size Range</u> mm	<u>Tyler Standard</u> <u>Sieve No.</u>
Sand	2-0.05	10-270 mesh
Very course sand	2-1	10-16 mesh
Coarse sand	1-0.5	16-35 mesh
Medium sand	0.5-0.25	35-60 mesh
Fine sand	0.25-0.1	60-140 mesh
Very fine sand	0.1-0.05	140-270 mesh
Silt	0.25-0.002	---
Clay	<0.002	---

The soils "textural triangle" may be referred to for further detailed combinations of these soils. The percentage of materials may be determined by sieve analysis or other laboratory tests.

II. Weathered parent material may be considered "soil" for the purposes applicable here, provided the following conditions are met:

- A. The material absorbs and transmits water;
- B. The material can be crushed by hand (and no longer maintain the structure of the parent material);
- C. The material exhibits evidence of good drainage (no glaying or mottling). Oxidation may be a sign of good drainage.



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Date

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