



Mariposa County Health Department

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County Health Officer

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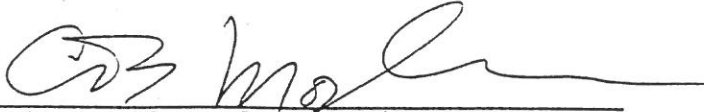
HEALTH DEPARTMENT POLICY MEMO

PROCEDURE FOR PERFORMING PERCOLATION TESTS IN MARIPOSA COUNTY

89-10

1. Dig or bore a hole with a minimum diameter of six (6) inches. The bottom of the test hole shall be located at the same depth as the bottom of the proposed leaching field. There shall be at least five (5) feet of undisturbed soil extending around all sides of the percolation test hole.
2. Roughen or score the bottom and sides of the holes to provide a natural surface. Remove all loose material from the hole.
3. Spread two (2) inches of coarse sand or fine gravel into the hole to protect the bottom surface and insert a perforated pipe in the hole. The pipe should be secured in place in order to prevent movement during the test.
4. Pour clean water into the pipe to a minimum depth of twelve (12) inches above the bottom of the hole. Recheck the water level in a few hours and refill, if necessary, in order to keep the hole saturated. The hole shall be presoaked for a minimum of 24 hours.
5. After the overnight saturation period, adjust the water level to six (6) inches above the two (2) inch gravel layer. From a fixed reference point, measure the drop in water level at approximately 30 minute intervals (10 minute or shorter intervals in sandy soils.) When the water level within the percolation test hole lowers to four (4) inches, refill back to the six (6) inch level and continue measuring the absorption. Percolation rates will be considered stabilized when four (4) consecutive readings demonstrate a consistent (less than 20% variance) rate of fall has been obtained. The smallest drop that occurs during the stabilized period will be used to calculate the percolation rate. If gravel is used around the pipe to secure it, then the percolation rate will be adjusted by multiplying the rate X 1.6. percolation test should be read for no less than three (3) hours for soils containing clay or silt. Tests in sands can be read for one hour.

Copies of the field data must be submitted with reports including date, time of presoaking, date and time of testing, soil type, readings, depth, location, and percolation rates.



Signature of Health Officer

revised 7-25-91
Date



Signature of Sanitarian

renewed 6-11-13
(ew)