

Caldwell County Health Department Instruction for Septic Site Evaluation

Application:

- Must be completed by owner or owner's agent
- Assessments are done after the application is complete
- An Environmental Health Specialist will be assigned to evaluate the site
- NOTE: Applications are valid for a period of two (2) years from the date of the application.

Site Preparation:

- Customer preference for septic system placement is our goal. You can help us by:
- Marking all property corners and sidelines (flags, paint, stakes, etc.)
- Clearly identifying area for house placement and other planned structures (deck, garage, pool, driveway, etc)
- Consider the following setbacks:
 - At least 50 feet from a creek or spring
 - 10 feet from any property line
 - 100 feet from any existing or proposed well location
- Clearing "sight lines" (clearing paths to see the ground) in the area to be evaluated (example: cleared undergrowth to allow easy accessibility and at least 50 feet visibility in any direction; see below) if unsure, contact your designated Environmental Health Specialist for additional guidance. All sites may not require clearing.

Note: once the site is prepared, contact your designated Environmental Health Specialist to schedule an appointment for the evaluation.

Soil Evaluation:

- An auger may be used by the Environmental health Specialist to perform an initial evaluation. An auger will make a hole 4 inches in diameter and sample the soil at various locations to determine site suitability.
- Note: If a proper evaluation cannot be accomplished with an auger (example: rock at shallow depths or too close to the surface), the NC Administrative Code states that you may be required to dig backhoe pits which will permit us to do a more complex evaluation.

