CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
1601 E. Fourth Plain Blvd. ♦ P.O. Box 9825
Vancouver, WA 98666-8825
Phone (360) 397-8428 ♦ Fax (360) 397-8091

SOIL EVALUATION
APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Test Hole Construction

1. All sites *must* be clearly marked with a ribbon to identify the entry to the site, the test holes, and the route to the test holes. Ribbon may be obtained at Clark County Environmental Public Health Customer Service counter.

2. **Two test holes must be provided in the primary drainfield area, and two additional holes must be provided in the reserve area.** Additional holes may be dug in other areas of the site that could potentially be considered for drainfield locations. This may create more options for locating the system and structures on the property, and may create more options for locating the system and structures on the property, and may also discover soils that would accommodate a less costly system. Field staff will log up to 8 profile holes during the site inspection.

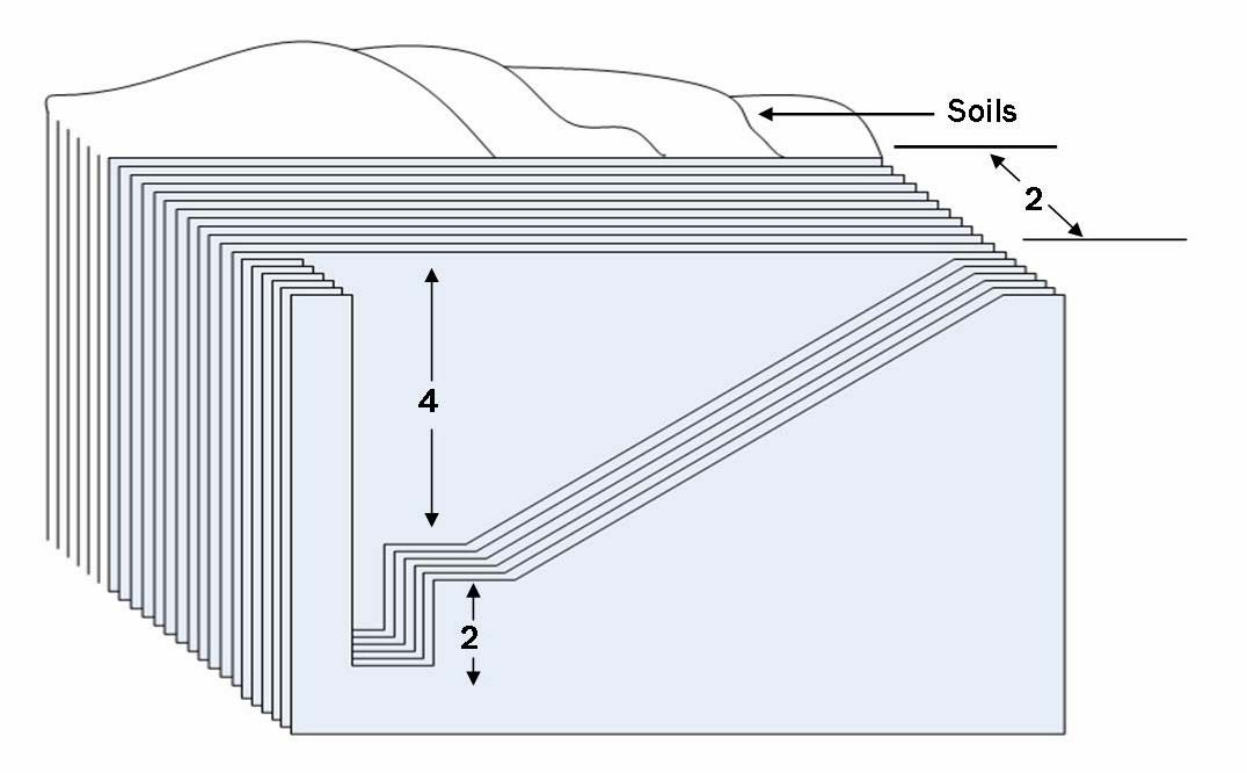
3. Test holes must not be less than 50 feet apart, nor more than 75 fee apart.

4. **Test Hole Dimensions**
   Test holes must be dug approximately 5-6 feet deep and 3 feet wide. In order to comply with safety requirements of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, test holes must be constructed as follows:

   - Each hole must have a ramped entry of approximately 45º to allow safe access.
   - For holes deeper than 4 feet, scoop out a portion from the floor to gain the additional depth needed to observe up to 6 feet of soil profile (see sketch).
   - Place the excavated soil no closer than two feet from the excavation.
   - Washington State Administrative Code (WAC 246-272A) requires that each hole be dug at least 3 feet wide and to a depth 3 feet deeper than the anticipated bottom of the disposal component. Adequate hole depth is necessary to identify restrictive layers in the soil profile and to assure that the drainfield can be installed with acceptable vertical separation. For example, for conventional systems, 36 inches of soil must exist between the restrictive layer and the trench bottom.
   - Shallower profile holes may be allowed if a clear restrictive layer or standing water is encountered at a shallower depth.
   - However, if shallower profile holes are prepared, and no restrictive layers are encountered, **the restrictive layer will be called at the depth of the profile hole**.

5. If holes are not properly constructed and/or if site is not adequately flagged; the site may be denied. *An additional fee may be required before the site is re-visited.*

Profile Hole Side View



1. For a conventional system on a flat site without a cap, the profile hole depth of 5 feet would be required, if a restrictive layer was not encountered.

2. A cap system (gravity flow) can be permitted on a flat site when no restrictive layer is encountered in a 48” profile hole.

3. A four foot deep profile hole on a 20% slope would require a pressure distribution system.

4. A conventional (gravity) system can be permitted on a 20+% slope if a restrictive layer is not encountered in a 72” profile hole. The maximum trench depth would be 36”.