



CALDWELL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Environmental Health Division

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Mission: To Promote, Protect, and Improve the Health of our Community.

Site Preparation for New Septic Systems: (Required Per 15A NCAC 18A .1937 (d))

The permitting process cannot be started until site preparation is complete. Have you completed the following?

- Mark all property corners and sidelines with flags, paint, stakes, etc.
- Any property line used to reference house and septic areas without a clear view from pin to pin, must be marked every 50 feet.
- Clearly identify area for house placement and other planned structures (deck, garage, pool, driveway, etc.)
- Clear undergrowth from the proposed septic drain field and repair area to allow easy accessibility and visibility in the area to be evaluated (at least 50 feet of visibility in any direction).
- Consider the following setbacks for septic systems: At least 50 feet from a creek or spring, 10 feet from any property line, 100 feet from any existing or proposed well location

If the EHS is unable to conduct a site evaluation due to inadequate site preparation the applicant may be charged a \$60 revisit fee before rescheduling the evaluation.

- It is recommended not to do any grading on the site before the site evaluation occurs. Grading on sites with shallow soil may cause site to be made unsuitable. Septic systems cannot be installed in fill.
- Backhoe pits may be required for soil evaluation.

Field Evaluation:

A Caldwell County Environmental Health Specialist will conduct a detailed field evaluation of soil profiles at your site by auger borings or other means of excavation to at least 48 inches or to an unsuitable characteristic and a determination shall be made as to the suitability of the soil to treat and absorb septic tank effluent. Applicants may be required to dig pits when necessary for proper evaluation of the soil at the site. In addition the suitability of your site will be evaluated in accordance with 15A NCAC 18A .1900 based on:

- *Topography and landscape position*
- *Soil characteristics (morphology)*
- *Soil wetness*
- *Soil depth*
- *Restrictive horizons; and*
- *Available space*

Site Preparation for New Wells:

The permitting process cannot be started until site preparation is complete. Have you completed the following?

- Mark all property corners and sidelines with flags, paint, stakes, etc.
- Any property line used to reference the house and well without a clear view from pin to pin, must be marked every 50 feet.
- Clearly identify area for house placement and other planned structures (deck, garage, pool, driveway, etc.)
- Mark the desired location(s) of your proposed well.
- Consider the following setbacks when selecting the desired location of your well:
 - 25' from any foundation including deck post
 - 100' (in most cases) from all parts of a septic system (including those on adjoining properties)

If the EHS is unable to conduct a site evaluation due to inadequate site preparation the applicant may be charged a \$60 revisit fee before rescheduling the evaluation.

Field Evaluation

Caldwell County Environmental Health Specialist will conduct a detailed field evaluation of the topography, landscape position, available space and potential sources of groundwater contamination on or around the site on which your private drinking water well is to be located. The location of the well indicated by the EHS is to provide protection from possible sources of contamination. Flow volume (well yield) is NOT guaranteed at any site by CCHD.

Grout Inspection

The EHS will return to your site during construction of the well to verify well placement and proper grouting of the well.

Wellhead Inspection and Certificate of Completion (COC)

After the pump is installed the EHS will return to your site to inspect the wellhead to verify that well construction is complete and in accordance with applicable laws and rules of North Carolina.

A Certificate of Occupancy and final power cannot be granted or the well placed into service until a Certificate of Completion is issued by the EHS indicating the wellhead is approved.

Water Samples:

- *Water samples for bacteriologic and inorganic chemical contamination are required to be taken by CCHD within 30 days of the issuance of the COC per 15A NCAC 18A .3802.*
- *It is the legal responsibility of the well owner to provide access to a source of power for the purpose of collecting the required water samples.*
- *If possible CCHD will take water samples during the same visit as the wellhead inspection. If this is not possible, **CCHD relies on the well owner to contact the Health Department when power has been provided to the pump and the chlorine used to disinfect the well is no longer detectable in the well water.***
- *Once the water samples have been analyzed by the lab CCHD will notify the well owner of the results by phone and send a copy of the lab report along with information and recommendations regarding the sample test results.*