



FORD COUNTY, KANSAS
 Planning, Zoning, & Environmental Health
 100 Gunsmoke St
 Dodge City, KS 67801
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The Percolation Test

Determining Your System's Size **Beginning Construction and Percolation Tests**

Perc is short for percolation and has become the preferred term for this test used to evaluate soil suitability to accept wastewater. Landowners/tenants will have the option of determining the percolation rate of the wastewater system's site by either accepting the rate determined by the SCS soil survey or by performing a percolation test. If a percolation test is performed, it will be used to size the system. Contractors are encouraged to have the landowners perform the percolation test themselves.

Percolation tests will only be performed using the Ford County Planning, Zoning, and Environmental Health form. Results may not be submitted on a different sheet or over the phone. System sizes will be calculated within 48 hours of the submission of the form to this office.

Applicant Information:				
Name of applicant				
Mailing address				
City		State		Zip code
Telephone #		Email address		
Office Use Only				
Parcel #: (029) _____				
		1/4	Section	Township
			Range	



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Completing A Percolation Test

1. Determine proposed site of absorption field.
2. Dig or bore 6 holes throughout proposed site 36" deep with a diameter of 8".
3. Scratch the sides of the holes to eliminate sealed soil surfaces and remove loose material from the hole.
4. Place 2" of washed gravel in the bottom of the hole to protect the hole from erosion, scouring, and sediment as water is introduced.
5. Carefully add 12"-14" of water. Using a water hose placed near the bottom of the hole will prevent soil washing down the sides of the hole.
6. Maintain the water level for at least 24 hours to allow swelling to occur.
7. After the full 24 hours have passed and the soil has been saturated, adjust the water depth to approximately 8" over the gravel and begin measuring.
8. Measure the drop of water in 30 minute intervals a minimum of 8 times. If the water drops more than 2"-3" in 30 minutes it will be necessary to add water to the hole after each reading until it is the same depth as recorded initially.
9. Record measurements on the chart below and submit these results with the completed septic system application and drawing of the site to the Ford County Planning, Zoning, and Environmental Health Department at 100 Gunsmoke St., Dodge City, KS 67801.

Hole No.	30 Min.	30 Min.	30 Min.	30 Min.	30 Min.	30 Min.	30 Min.	30 Min.
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								

Water Drop In Inches

The percolation rate is determined by averaging the measurements obtained for each hole. Bulletin 4-2 gives the ratio of percolation rate to lateral field size. This is used to determine your lateral area. Various sizing discounts are given for additional septic tank size, filters, or differing lateral construction methods.