

The Sanitary Code of the Chautauqua County District requires a building lot of at least 40,000 square feet to maintain required distances between water wells and septic components (wells must be least 50 feet from septic tanks and 100 feet from other wastewater treatment system components; 200 ft in course gravel or if the well is down gradient from absorption bed). If public water is available the building lot must be at least 15,000 square feet. Building lots must include usable space; features such as wetlands, extreme elevations, etc. will complicate the OWTS design.

The Sanitary Code specifies that one OWTS may be installed for one dwelling on a single parcel. All graywater drain lines are considered wastewater so laundry, utility sinks, etc. must be connected to the main sewer and septic tank. Onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) components and discharges must be a minimum of 10 feet from property lines.

Enclosed you will find an application for an OWTS permit along with reference materials that should be used when preparing the OWTS design. We recommend you hire a contractor to perform percolation tests, design an OWTS system, obtain the proper permit and install the system according to the plan. Chautauqua County Health Department (CCHD) staff will review the submitted design to ensure that it meets New York State regulations. A list of contractors working in Chautauqua County is enclosed; these contractors are familiar with New York State regulations and the requirements of the Chautauqua County Environmental Health Division.

As of January 2025, it is the responsibility of the property owner to submit a freshwater wetland Jurisdictional Determination (JD) request should there be suspected or known freshwater wetlands on, or adjacent to, the parcel on which construction shall take place. Please note that an OWTS permit cannot be issued by this office until all requirements have been satisfied through the NYSDEC. More information regarding the new wetland regulations can be found on the DEC website: <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/wetlands/freshwater-wetlands-program/freshwater-wetland-jurisdictional-determination>

Please complete the application, record the site plan and percolation test information on the appropriate pages and submit the entire application, along with fee payment, to our Mayville office for processing. Checks must be made payable to the Chautauqua County Director of Finance. If you would like to pay by credit card, there will be a 2.5% transaction fee. You may also submit applications electronically to [ehu@chqgov.com](mailto:ehu@chqgov.com).

**As of JANUARY 1, 2023 PERMIT FEES are as follows:**

<b>Correction or Replacement of existing OWTS</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Newly constructed OWTS</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Septic tank or Distribution box (<i>d-box</i>) replacement only</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>OWTS permit extension</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Same-Day Inspection</b>	<b>\$75</b>

A CCHD representative must meet the contractor or the party responsible for designing / installing the OWTS at the property to review the design plan before a permit will be issued. Please contact the office to schedule an appointment for this essential step in the process. Once issued, OWTS permits are valid for one (1) year.

Please contact our office at (716)753-4481 with any questions or concerns regarding OWTS permits.

Mailing Address: Chautauqua County Health Department – Environmental Health  
7 North Erie St.  
Mayville, NY 14757

## PROCEDURE FLOW CHART FOR PRIVATE ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM PERMIT

Responsibilities of Contractor / Property Owner	Responsibilities of CCHD - Environmental Health Division
1. Complete all application information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application,</li> <li>• Site plan drawing,</li> <li>• Percolation tests and results on chart,</li> <li>• Soil characteristic chart.</li> </ul>	
2. Submit completed application, charts, and fee to office by mail or in person. <b><u>OR</u></b> <b>Contractor calls office to schedule a site visit and brings the completed application, etc. with them; 7 days advance notice is required to schedule a site visit.</b>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;">➔</div> <p>If completed application is submitted to office before site visit, clerical staff will contact the contractor to schedule a site visit. The contractor must be present at the site visit.</p> </div>
3. Contractor / installer meets CCHD field staff at site.	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;">➔</div> <p>Field staff brings mailed application and/or reviews application / system design with contractor / installer.</p> </div>
4. Contractor completes application, revises site drawing, and returns completed application with fee to office or hands off to CCHD field staff at site visit.	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;">➔</div> <p>Reviews application / drawing and issues permit. Copies are sent to applicant, Town Code Enforcement Officer, and contractor.</p> </div>
5. Construction begins after plans have been reviewed and approved (permit issued or verbal approval given).	
6. Contractor requests final inspection with <b>48 hour</b> notice. <b><u>All components</u></b> of the system must be complete at time of requested inspection.	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;">➔</div> <p>Makes final inspection and approves system or requires correction.</p> </div>
7. Contractor covers and grades system area. Contractor may seed the field area themselves or arrange to have the area seeded as weather allows.	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;">➔</div> <p>Sends approval letter and as built drawing (with dimensions and measurements of essential components) to applicant with copies to Town Code Enforcement Officer and contractor.</p> </div>



## Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Permit Application

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Environmental Health Division (716) 753-4481

In applying for this permit, I understand the following:

- ☐ OWTS design depends on factors including, but not limited to: the number of bedrooms, facility use, parcel size and shape, topography, ability to meet NYS required offset distances, water table levels and soil type.
- ☐ Existing or suspected wetlands on the parcel will require a wetland Jurisdictional Determination (JD) from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.
- ☐ The location of my well / water source, surrounding wells / water sources, and OWTS components will be documented; the information may be used by the CCHD for future developments on surrounding properties.
- ☐ The life expectancy of an OWTS depends on use and maintenance. Life expectancy may be extended by utilizing water conservation measures, installing water efficient appliances, and eliminating garbage disposal units and dishwashers. Groundwater, cooling water, and surface water from streets, foundations, and roofs must be excluded from the OWTS.
- ☐ Should the system fail property owners are responsible for notifying the CCHD for a permit to make repairs so public health nuisances and hazards may be prevented.
- ☐ If the property is sold, or transfer ownership, a water sewage survey must be completed in accordance with the Sanitary Code of the Chautauqua County Health District.

***Under the provisions of Article IV, Section 4 of the Sanitary Code of the Chautauqua County Health District, application to install or correct an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) is made by:***

**Property Tax ID # (Section-Block-Lot #)** \_\_\_\_\_

**# Bedrooms:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Town / Village:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Commercial Property** ☐ **No** ☐ **Yes, describe business:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reason:** ☐ **New OWTS** ☐ **Correction** ☐ **Correction due to Water Sewage Survey**

☐ **Septic Tank Replacement Only** ☐ **Distribution Box Replacement Only** ☐ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read, understood, and agree to the above conditions under which the permit is to be issued. I agree to install and operate the OWTS in accordance with regulations in the Sanitary Code of the Chautauqua County Health District. **I understand that OWTS construction must not occur before a permit is issued and that after installation the system must not be put into service until it is inspected by a representative of the Chautauqua County Health Department.**

Property Owner Name (printed)

Contractor Name (printed)

Property Owner Signature

Contractor Signature

Mailing Address

Mailing Address

Phone Number

Phone Number

Email Address

Email Address

**CCHD Office Use:** Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ Fee / Receipt#: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Issued: \_\_\_\_\_

**Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Design Checklist**

**\*\* ALL THINGS TO BE DISCUSSED / CONFIRMED WITH CCHD INSPECTOR \*\***

Please provide a straight lined drawing using a template or straight edge showing the following information. ALL requested information that is applicable must be provided before a permit will be issued. Failure to do so will result in the application being rejected and returned. ***A submitted application with payment is not a guarantee of a permit.*** Construction should not start before a permit is issued. If you have a question about the status of the permit please contact this office before construction. All critical components will be addressed in a detail box or labeled on the submitted plan.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property dimensions and property lines.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Include a North Arrow.                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Location of the dwelling.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Locate any streams, ponds, lakes, gullies, etc.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General slope of the lot.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Property layout (buildings, roads, driveways, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water wells or drinking water supplies within 200 feet of the proposed OWTS.   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Properties with existing or suspected freshwater wetlands, must have a Jurisdictional Determination (JD) from NYSDEC which allows OWTS installation. |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any buried lines that may interfere with system construction (i.e. gas lines, water lines, underground electric cable, etc.).                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All wastewater drain lines (laundry, utility sinks, etc.) must be connected to the main sewer and septic tank.                                       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sump pumps must be excluded from the septic system. Water softeners must be excluded, air gapped or installed with a check valve.                    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any rights of way or easements on the property so we do not place the OWTS on them.  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed location of the OWTS including the location the discharge will drain.   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Location of clean outs (cleanouts required every 75 feet between the house outlet and tank).   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slope of all pipe components in the system, including line from house to tank, tank to D-box and all distribution lines and drains.                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Septic tank brand, size and type of outlet filter.   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distribution box (D-box) location and type (i.e. concrete or plastic).   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule 40 Pipe locations including Capped Vents, Capped Inspection Ports, House to Tank, Tank to D-box.  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Component Dimensions (i.e. length and width of sand filter, final discharge, stone bed).   |  |

Designed By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CCHD Office Use**

CCHD Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Type: ☐ PSD ☐ PSN ☐ PA ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_



## Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Permit Application

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Environmental Health Division (716) 753-4481

### Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Design / Plan Drawing

This is a permanent record, please be neat. Provide all information listed below.

Owner \_\_\_\_\_ SBL \_\_\_\_\_ Contractor \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town/Village \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\* Changes to permitted plans requires approval from ENV Health or permit may be voided. \*\*\*\***

Type of system \_\_\_\_\_

# Bedrooms \_\_\_\_\_ Size of bed \_\_\_\_\_

Sand filter discharge size \_\_\_\_\_

SCH 40 House to tank (1/4"/ft) dist. \_\_\_\_\_

Tank to D-box (1/8"/ft) dist. \_\_\_\_\_

Sand filter to final absorp.(1/16"/ft.) dist. \_\_\_\_\_

OWTS components to property line dist. \_\_\_\_\_

**Date SITE INVESTIGATION Completed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CCHD Rep:** \_\_\_\_\_

OWTS components to own well dist. \_\_\_\_\_

to neighbor's well dist. \_\_\_\_\_

Septic tank brand \_\_\_\_\_

Tank size(s): #1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Outlet filter type \_\_\_\_\_

Graywater connected? \_\_\_\_\_

Sump pump / water softener excluded? \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Grade/Seeding By:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

North arrow \_\_\_\_\_ Slope of land \_\_\_\_\_



# Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Permit Application

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## Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) – Percolation Test and Soil Characteristics

This is a permanent record, please be neat. Provide all information listed below.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ SBL \_\_\_\_\_ Test by \_\_\_\_\_

Weather / Comments \_\_\_\_\_

CCHD Rep \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Percolation Rate \_\_\_\_\_

#1 Depth =				#2 Depth=				#3 Depth =			
Start	Stop	Minute interval	Inches drop	Start	Stop	Minute interval	Inches drop	Start	Stop	Minute interval	Inches drop

#4 Depth =				#5 Depth =				#6 Depth =			
Start	Stop	Minute interval	Inches drop	Start	Stop	Minute interval	Inches drop	Start	Stop	Minute interval	Inches drop

**To Complete Information Below:** Dig a 5 foot test hole in the middle of the proposed field area; side walls must be clearly visible to the full depth. Use the chart below to record significant changes in soil characteristics and the depth where they occur.

Description of Topsoil: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth of Topsoil: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Subsoil: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth of Subsoil: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth High Groundwater Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth Groundwater Seeped in: \_\_\_\_\_

Depth to Bedrock: \_\_\_\_\_

## LOCATING AND PREPARING PERCOLATION TEST HOLES

1. Locate the proposed field area and stake out the probable corners. The field area must be located more than 100 feet from any water well and surface water.
2. The proposed field area should be divided into four quadrants with a percolation test performed in each quadrant. A minimum of four (4) test holes, 20 feet apart, are required in the proposed field area.
3. Tests should also be run downhill of the proposed field area. Two (2) tests should be performed 10 – 20 feet below the bottom edge of the field. Site and OWTS system specifics may require additional tests.
4. Dig a hole with vertical sides approximately 12 inches wide and 24 – 30 inches below grade or, if shallower or deeper OWTSs are planned, dig holes to the projected depth of the trenches. If dense clay, shale, or ground water is encountered, run tests at shallower depth and indicate depth on chart. A reputable OWTS contractor should be contacted for assistance.
5. Scrape the sides of holes and remove loose soil from the bottom. Place 2 inches of gravel or crushed stone in the bottom of holes.
6. **PRESOAK** and saturate the holes the day before the test is run by periodically filling the holes with water and allowing water to seep away. For safety, cover test holes with boards.

## RUNNING PERCOLATION TESTS

1. Pour 6 inches of water into the hole and mark the time on the attached sheet.
2. Observe and record the time in minutes that it takes the water level to drop from 6 inches to 5 inches deep.
3. Add more water to bring the water depth back to 6 inches and repeat step #2.
4. A minimum of 5 tests are requested in each test hole. The process should reveal successive tests that show approximately equal lengths of time for the water depth to drop 1 inch. This time is the percolation rate.
5. For safety, cover test holes with boards. Do not backfill the test holes. A CCHD representative must observe the holes at the site visit to evaluate OWTS design.

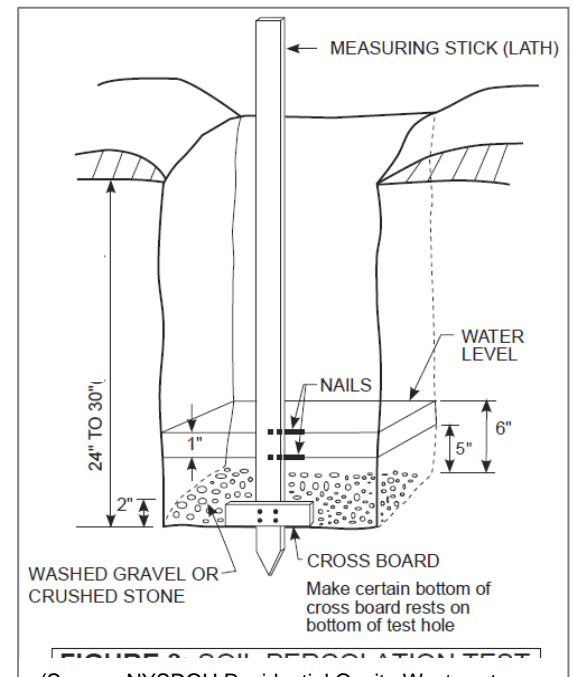


FIGURE 3-10 PERCOLATION TEST  
(Source: NYSDOH Residential Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Design Handbook p. 105)

## PERCOLATION TESTS RESULTS

After a percolation rate has been determined for each hole, consult the System Size Chart to determine the size of stones beds or trenches recommended for the standard OWTS. Use the slowest percolation rate observed. Once the contractor has designed a plan for the system **a field consultation with a representative of CCHD is required.** After completing the percolation tests and establishing the soil profile, send your application materials and the filing fee to the Mayville office. You will be contacted for a site investigation appointment.

## EVALUATING SOIL CHARACTERISTICS

A five (5) foot hole is required to evaluate soil characteristics. The hole should be dug in the middle of the proposed tile field area; the width must allow easy observation of side walls to the full depth. Use the "Soil Characteristics" charts to record significant changes in soil characteristics and the depth at which they occur along with the depth at which groundwater is observed.



**Sand Filter Systems** are used on lots with poor drainage, little topsoil, and clay subsoils. The lot should have at least 4.5 feet of slope throughout the system area. A two compartment 1500 gallon septic tank with an outlet filter is required. See **Minimum Septic Tank Capacities** Table at bottom of page for tank size requirements. Sand filter systems can have 2 tanks in series that meet the minimum capacity, but if tanks are used in series 2/3 of the total tank volume must be in the first tank (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> = 1,000 gallon, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 500 gallon). A distribution box is required.

#### SAND FILTER SIZE & CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

STONE OVER SAND	APPROVED SAND	PEA-STONE UNDER SAND	STONE on BOTTOM
3/4 - 1 1/2 " Washed Stone 8" over sand	24" Approved Grade A Sand	1/8-1/4 " Stone 3" minimum	3/4 - 1 1/2 " Washed Stone

Bedrooms	Width (ft)	Length (ft)	Area (sq. feet)	Top Lines	Under Lines	Length of 2 foot wide Absorption Trench (ft)	Stone Bed (sq. feet)
two	12	25	300	4	1	80	200
three	12	35	420	4	1	120	300
four	12	45	540	4	1	160	400
four	15	36	540	5	2	160	400
five	12	55	660	4	1	200	500
five	15	44	660	5	2	200	500
six	15	52	780	5	2	250	600
six	20	39	780	6	2	250	600

#### MINIMUM SEPTIC TANK CAPACITIES

Number of Bedrooms	Subsurface Systems	Sand Filters *
2 or 3	1000 Gallons	1500 Gallons
4	1250 Gallons	1500 Gallons
5	1500 Gallons	1500 Gallons
6	1750 Gallons	2000 Gallons

#### NOTES:

- Tank size requirements for more than six bedrooms is calculated by adding 250 gallons and seven square feet of surface area for each additional bedroom.
- A garbage grinder is equivalent to an additional bedroom for determining tank size.
- A hot tub / spa is equivalent to an additional bedroom for determining tank size.



**Standard Subsurface Tile Fields** are used on lots with good drainage and gentle slopes. See **Minimum Septic Tank Capacities** Table (next page) for tank size requirements. An outlet filter on the septic tank and a distribution box are required. Tile lines are 24 inches wide trenches of equal length with perforated pipe in washed stone. The trench is dug level, and the pipe is laid at 1/32 inch/foot drop.

**Required Length of Absorption Trench for Corrections (see notes)**

Percolation Rate	2 Bedrooms		3 Bedrooms		4 Bedrooms		5 Bedrooms		6 Bedrooms	
Water Fixtures	Low Flow	High Flow	Low Flow	High Flow	Low Flow	High Flow	Low Flow	High Flow	Low Flow	High Flow
1-5 Min./Inch	92	125	138	187	184	250	230	312	275	374
6-7 Min./Inch	110	150	165	225	220	300	275	375	330	450
8-10 Min./Inch	123	167	184	250	245	333	306	417	367	500
11-15 Min./Inch	138	188	207	281	275	375	344	469	413	563
16-20 Min./Inch	158	214	236	321	315	429	393	536	472	643
21-30 Min./Inch	184	250	275	375	367	500	459	625	550	750
31-45 Min./Inch	220	300	330	450	440	600	550	750	660	900
46-60 Min./Inch	245	333	367	500	489	667	612	833	734	1000*
				Dosing or alternate design required.						
				* Greater than 1,000 feet of trench requires Alternate Dosing.						

**Leaching Stone Beds** are used on lots with good percolating soils but are limited by topography or area. See **Minimum Septic Tank Capacities** Table next page for tank size requirements. An outlet filter on the septic tank, a distribution box, and equal length perforated pipes laid level on 12" of washed stone and connected at the ends are required. *Leaching stone beds will only be allowed to correct an existing system, not for brand new OWTS construction.*

**Required Square Footage of Stone Beds (see notes)**

Percolation Rate	2 Bedrooms		3 Bedrooms		4 Bedrooms		5 Bedrooms		6 Bedrooms	
Water Fixtures	Low Flow	High Flow	Low Flow	High Flow	Low Flow	High Flow	Low Flow	High Flow	Low Flow	High Flow
1-5 Min./Inch	250	300	350	475	475	625	600	800	700	950
6-10 Min./Inch	325	425	475	650	650	850	800	1100	950	1300
11-15 Min./Inch	375	500	550	750	750	1000	925	1250	1100	1500
16-20 Min./Inch	400	550	600	800	800	1100	1000	1400	1200	1600
21-30 Min./Inch	500	650	750	1000	1000	1300	1225	1700	1500	2000
						Pressure manifold required.				
						Pumping will be required.				



## Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Permit Application

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### CREDIT / DEBIT CARD TRANSACTION SLIP

Transaction Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business City & State: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Client Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

MC / Visa / Discover: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount of Sale = Fee + 2.5% Transaction Fee: \_\_\_\_\_