

# ADAMS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

313 W. JEFFERSON ST. ROOM 314

DECATUR, INDIANA 46733-1660

OFFICE: (260) 724-5326  
FAX: (260) 724-5328

ADAMS CO. HEALTH OFFICER:  
MICHAEL AINSWORTH, MD

July 25, 2007

## PERMIT PROCESS FOR GRAY WATER SYSTEMS

1.) The prospective new homeowner must first come to our office -and the building department's office- to receive information for permit requirements for both departments. You must also do this to provide us information so that we are aware of your project and can put it in our file systems. We need to have a drawing of the plot plan showing the following: directions (north-south-east-west), the proposed location of the new house on the lot, existing and proposed buildings, proposed lanes, the proposed location of the well, wash house, and the proposed location of the privy.

2.) A soil test is required by a qualified scientist who is on the Health Department's list. All septic systems in Adams County must be installed by an excavator who is on our department's registered excavator's list. Both lists will be provided to you. Backhoe pits are required for the soil test and it is highly recommended to contact the registered excavator who may eventually install the septic system to dig the pits for the soil test. That will greatly speed up the permit process because the excavator will become familiar with the site and location of the septic system. He may even be able to start preparing the required plans and drawing at that time.

[ Note: There are some soil conditions in our county that are not acceptable for any type of septic system. It only happens about 5 to 10% of the time but when those soil conditions are found, the Health Department cannot issue a permit for a septic system for a residence or business. This is because it is very doubtful any legal septic system would work in that type of soil. For this reason, it is highly recommended that a soil test is done at the proposed residential or business building site before anything else, even before purchasing the property. If the Health Department cannot issue a permit for a residence or business, the Building Department will not be able to issue a residential or business permit either. ]

3.) Once the soil scientist has been paid and has released the paper work to our office, the registered excavator must submit the required plans and drawing of the system to our office. When we receive the registered excavator's plans and drawing, the Health Department can issue the septic system permit and the Building Department may also be able to issue a building permit. Once both permits have been obtained, construction may commence.

Michael Ainsworth, MD, Adams County Health Officer



Terry R. Smith, Sanitarian/Env. Director, Adams County Health Department

