

Explanation of Soil Test Pit Log Forms

These forms have been prepared to assist consultants in collecting soil information per Sections 1-902 and Appendix 2-A in the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules effective September 29, 2007. The consistent format will also streamline the review of test pit logs by Wastewater Management Division personnel.

- Depth The depth should always be measured from ground surface and the interval of the layer being described noted.
- Texture The grain size distribution should be estimated in this column; the relative percentages of sand, silt and clay should be recorded using a consistent and accepted system. The USDA Soil Conservation Service soil textural classification is preferred. Occurrence of gravel, larger rock fragments or bedrock should also be noted here.
- Consistence The in place relative cohesion of soil particles to each other and the degree of compactness of the soil layer. Useful tests include degree of penetration with a sharp object or how readily soil peds break (e.g. loose, friable, firm or very firm).
- Color The predominant color or colors of the soil layer should be described as accurately as possible (such as brown, reddish-yellow, olive gray, dark gray, etc.). Munsell Color Chart codes are also useful.
- Mottles The spots or splotches of different colors of different shades of color should be noted in terms of their quantity, size and contrast (for example: gray and yellowish-brown, common, distinct).
- Comments Other pertinent soil characteristics such as structure, moisture content, rock fragment content, probable depositional environments, explanations of soil characteristics listed in other columns.