TRINITY COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

61 AIRPORT ROAD, PO BOX 476, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093 PHONE: (530) 623-1459

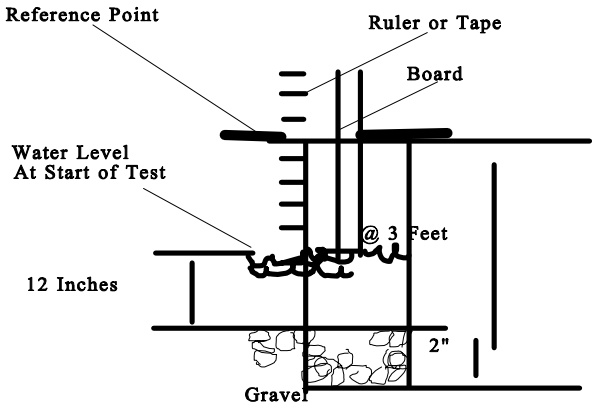
PERCOLATION TEST PROCEDURES

The object in conducting percolation tests of soil in which a drain field or seepage pit is to be installed, is to determine the length of time required for the soil to absorb one inch of water when the ground has been saturated. The information obtained from these tests, together with knowledge of the approximate amount and type of sewage to be discharged, makes it possible to determine the size of the drain field.

Holes 4 to 6 inches in diameter have been found to be the most convenient. However, this diameter is not critical, and particularly in very loose soils, it may be easier to dig larger holes. Sides of the holes should be vertical and the depth should be approximately that of the proposed drain field, (3 feet deep). The holes (2 or more) should be approximately 20 to 40 feet apart and in the area where the drain field will be installed.

1. The sides should be roughed up to eliminate packing caused by the shovel or post hole digger, which would reduce the percolation rate. Two inches of fine gravel should be placed in the hole to prevent bottom scoring.
2. Fill the hold with clear water being careful to avoid washing down the sides of the hole. By refilling, if necessary, keep at last 24 inches of water in the hole for at least 24 hours. After the above saturation, start with no more than 12 inches of water above the gravel (remove water if necessary) and begin the measurements.
3. Select a reference point from which to measure (a board laid across the mouth of the hole is satisfactory) and measure the distance from the reference point to the level of the water. Enter the time and distance measured on the chart below.
4. Repeat the measurement at the end of 30 minutes. **Continue making measurements at 30-minute intervals for 4 hours = 8 measurement readings.**
5. If the water level drops too low for further readings, refill to the 12-inch level at the end of a 30-minute period, measure and proceed as before.
6. If the hole consistently drains in less than 30 minutes, make readings at 10-minute intervals.
7. Sketch plot plan of location of the perc holes on the back of this form and/or on the application form.

Percolation Test Results			
Hole 1		Hole 2	
Time	Depth to Water	Time	Depth To Water



I hereby certify that the above percolation tests were done in accordance with the instructions and the results recorded here are true and correct.

_____ _____

Date Signature

AP Number _____ Owner's Name _____