



Mandatory Backhoe Pit Policy
Effective February 1, 2017

The purpose of this policy is to establish mandatory backhoe pits within the Barren River District Health Department. Implementing mandatory backhoe pits will better utilize staff time spent conducting site evaluations. Additionally, backhoe pits allow for a better view of soil conditions and provide a better site evaluation to the property owner and they benefit the general public health.

The homeowner or property owner must arrange to have two backhoe pits dug in the general area of where the onsite sewage disposal system is proposed to be installed. The backhoe pits should be placed forty (40) to fifty (50) feet apart and dug to a depth of forty-two (42) inches; however in some instances a depth to forty-two (42) inches may not be possible due to bedrock, water table or restrictive horizons such as fragipans, iron pans, clay pans, massive soil, platy soil or structurally destroyed soils. Backhoe pits should be a minimum of twenty-four (24) inches wide to permit access by the Certified Inspector to evaluate the soil conditions.

It will be the responsibility of the property owner for making the necessary arrangements for providing backhoe pits, for any costs involved in providing the pits and notification of the health department that the site is ready for the evaluation.

Policy/Procedure Version Number	Origination/Revision or Review Date	Description of Revision/Reviewer Name
303-560-001v.1	December 28, 2016	Initial Adoption/T. Buchanan/D. Burton



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