

Test Pit Preparation for Onsite Sewage Evaluations



When do you need a "Test Pit?"

When you apply for a permit to construct an onsite sewage disposal system, a County inspector will have to visit the proposed construction site. A *test pit* allows the inspector to test and examine the soil and soil layers and will help determine if it is appropriate to proceed with construction. This process is often referred to as a "site evaluation."

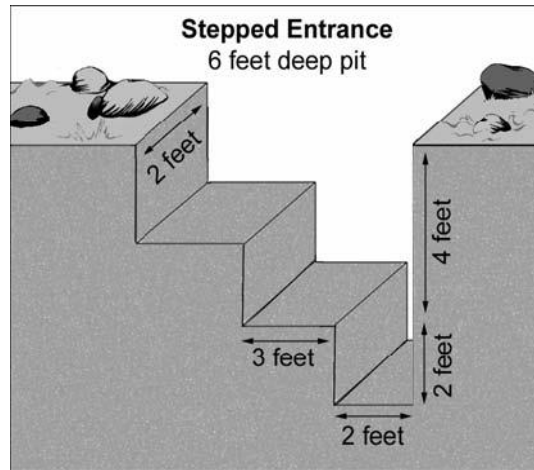
Preparing the test pit

To provide for pit stabilization and safe access, standard test pits for site evaluations must be prepared in the following manner:

- The bottom of the pit shall be at least 2 feet wide and 4 feet long.
- The depth shall be at least 4.5 feet and shall not exceed 5 feet.
- In some instances, pits need only be excavated to the layer of hard rock or to the water table if that layer is less than 5 feet.

6-Foot test pits

At the *request of the inspector*, test pits may need to be excavated to a depth of 6 feet as shown in the figure below:

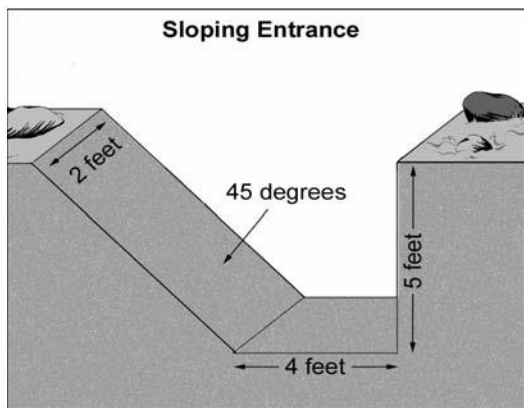


The entrance to a 6-foot test pit may be sloped or stepped as soil conditions warrant.

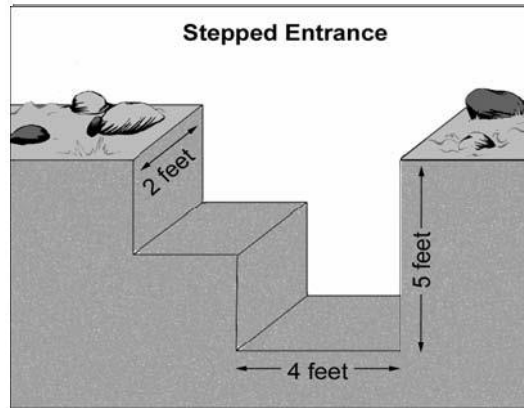
Onsite Program
 360 N Alvord
 Burns, Oregon 97720
 541-573-8174 or 541-589-2696

Providing Access to the Standard Test Pits:

For easy access, one end of the test pit shall be either:



Sloped at approximately 45 degrees or less if the soils are dry or loose.



Stepped when soils are wet.

All spoils need to be a minimum of 2 feet from the pit edge.