

CABARRUS HEALTH ALLIANCE

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I apply for?

If you are determining the suitability of a proposed site for ground absorption sewage disposal, apply for a **soil evaluation**, formerly known as a “perc test”. Soil evaluation fees are **\$325 for one acre**.

If the first acre has unsuitable soil and you want other locations on the property to be evaluated, apply for **additional acreage**. Fees are **\$60 for every additional acre**.

If you want to acquire a building permit for structural addition, new mobile homes, swimming pools, decks, etc., apply for a **existing system approval**. ESA fees are **\$125**.

If you are wanting to add an additional bedroom/s onto your house with an existing septic system, apply for a **septic expansion**. The construction authorization for an addition or relocation of the septic system is **\$250**.

If you suspect problems with your septic system including wet areas in your yard, sewage backing up in your house, or a collapsed septic tank, apply for a **septic repair permit**. Repair permit fees are **\$50 for application and \$100 for permit**.

If you want to build a new well on your property, apply for a **drinking water well permit**. Well permit fees are **\$50 for application and \$450 for permit**.

If you want to test your well water for contaminants, apply for **well water sample collection**. Water sampling fees differ depending on the contaminant being tested for.
For new wells, one full panel test (bacterial, inorganics, and nitrites) is included in the permit.

If you want to discontinue using a well for the purpose of meeting setbacks for a septic system, you no longer want to use a well, or you want to repair your well, apply for a **drinking water well abandonment or well repair permit**. Well repair permit fees are **\$50 for application, \$150 for permit and abandon**.

Why do I need a site plan?

A site plan is needed so the Environmental Health Specialist can determine if the location where you want your septic system has suitable soil.

How do I submit my application?

All applications are completed and submitted online using Accela.

How do I plan the location of where a septic system will be on my property? What are setbacks?

Setbacks are how far a septic system is required to be kept away from other proposed or existing structures.

When drawing a site plan, the septic system (including the tank) and designated repair area must be kept:

- 15 feet from the edge of any in ground swimming pools
- 5 feet from detached structures & proposed additions (including decks)
- 15 feet from a basement
- 10 feet from the property line
- 50 feet from the well
- 20 feet from another septic system

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How and when can I make a payment for my application?

The Environmental Health Department will send you an invoice for a payment for your application which can be paid on Accela. Once the payment has been made, the Environmental Health Department will schedule your evaluation/inspection or issue your permit.

How do I set up an appointment for the evaluation or inspection?

Once you submit your payment on the Accela website, your evaluation or inspection will be scheduled by the Environmental Health Department on a first-come, first-served basis.

Do I need to be on the property for the evaluation/inspection?

You do not need to be on the property for the evaluation or inspection. If you would like to meet the inspector on the property, leave a note on the application for the Environmental Health Specialist to give you a call before they arrive for the evaluation/inspection.

What happens after the inspector evaluates the soil on my property?

After a soil evaluation, you will receive an invoice for an improvement permit/construction authorization, or unsuitability documents.

- The **improvement permit (IP)** means that the soil “percs” and typically used when buying or selling land. The **construction authorization (CA)** means that the soil is suitable for the septic system designed by the Environmental Health Specialist and is needed to build within the next 60 months. IP fees are **\$125**.
The construction authorization fees differ depending on how many bedrooms the proposed house has.
- Unsuitability documents mean the soil in the area evaluated didn’t “perc” and is unsuitable for a septic system per a design with the Cabarrus Health Alliance. In this case, you can apply for additional acreage for a CHA Environmental Health Specialist to evaluate the soil in a different part of the property OR you can hire a Licensed Soil Scientist/Engineer to design a septic system on the original acre.

When will I receive my permit?

Once the permit is approved, you will be sent an invoice to be paid on Accela. You will be issued the permit online by Environmental Health once you pay on the Accela website.

Can I change my site plan once the permit has been issued?

You cannot change your site plan unless approved by the Environmental Health Specialist who issued the permit. Changing the site plan will lead to permit revocation. If any changes need to be made, contact the Environmental Health Specialist.

Can I grade the property once a permit has been issued?

No, grading will change the landscape. The natural landscape will need to be retained to keep the soil levels consistent with the evaluation/inspection. Septic systems must go in naturally occurring soil.