

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION
<http://www.tompkins-co.org/health/eh>

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On-Site Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Inspection Descriptions

o Soil and Site Appraisal

- Request this inspection when you are ready to have your site evaluated for an OWTS permit (new, conversion or replacement). This inspection typically includes the “deep-hole” soil test (a 6-foot deep hole dug with a backhoe) and an evaluation of surface conditions (e.g. sufficient separation distances to points of concern).

o Soil Percolation Test

- Request this inspection only if an inspector from the Health Department has completed the Soil and Site Appraisal inspection and has concluded that a soil percolation test (perc test) is warranted.

o Bottom Inspection

- Request this inspection for Sand Filter type OWTS for when the bottom of the sand filter has been completed (collector pipe laid in bed of aggregate and covered with pea gravel or 1A gravel) and can be observed by an inspector.

o Technical Assistance

- This “inspection” is really a field visit. Request this inspection when you have specific questions regarding your sewage system that cannot be answered over the phone or by email (please include a brief description of why the inspection needed).

o Other Inspection

- Request this inspection when you require a type of inspection that is not otherwise listed (please include a brief description of why the inspection needed).

o Septic Tank Inspection

- Request this inspection when you require an inspection for a newly installed septic tank (inspection must be before tank is backfilled and covered).

o Pump Chamber Inspection

- Request this inspection when you require an inspection for a newly installed pump chamber (inspection must be before chamber is backfilled and covered).

o Final Inspection

- Request this inspection when your OWTS system has been fully constructed (inspection must occur before system is covered).