



## Introduction to the Permit Process

Many areas of the county use septic tanks and soil absorption systems. Properly designed, installed, and maintained, such systems may give 20 to 40 years of good service. However, these systems can fail if not maintained, and a major failure could cause repairs ranging from \$2,000 to \$15,000. It makes good economic and environmental sense to ensure that the system operates properly.

Household liquid waste can contain disease bacteria, infectious viruses, household chemicals, and excess nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, etc.). If discharged untreated, these can be a health and environmental problem. A properly installed and maintained septic system goes a long way in addressing these concerns.

### **Design factors that influence the type of system you need:**

- Soil type
- Number of bedrooms
- Slope
- Available reserve area (extra drainfield set aside for future)
- Water table
- Acreage
- Existing covenants
- Well location and depth
- Regulation in place at time of installation

If you think you need to install or repair an on-site septic system, give us a call at (360) 740-1277. We have information and application packets which will give you a good start toward a properly installed and maintained septic system.