



Conducting a soil profile test

The test is conducted in a trench. This trench will need to be about three feet wide, eight to twelve feet long, and five feet deep. This trench is usually dug with a backhoe, but any piece of equipment that will create this trench is adequate. Some criteria to consider when digging a soil profile hole is:

- Slope one end, or place steps in one end of the trench so that someone can get down the trench
- Orient the trench north and south if possible; this will allow sunlight to shine on the trench wall from either the east or the west

It is important to select the best place for the wastewater system. It may be necessary to dig more than one soil profile hole to find the best location. Meeting the contractor onsite can eliminate multiple trips to one site for both the contractor and the sanitarian.

The type of wastewater system and size of that system will be determined by the sanitarian that does the soil profile. He/she will take into consideration soil texture, soil structure, size of the residence, available space, and water usage. It is the goal of the Salina-Saline County Health Department to install wastewater systems that will only be adequate for the application, but also protect the environment, especially ground water.