

4935 Main St
Ste 7-303
Spring Hill, TN 37174

MidTnSoil@gmail.com
615 - 628 - 7033

Most people do not develop land more than once or twice in a lifetime. Consequently, the process can be confusing, overwhelming, and daunting. While I can't walk you through the entire process from purchase to housewarming, I can offer some clarity about the process of getting a septic permit.

First, let's cover what documentation you need. There are two documents that I can provide you as a soil scientist; a preliminary report and a soil map.

Preliminary Report - This is a statement of preliminary findings after a visit to your property. There are a few reasons that you would want this instead of a soil map.

- If you are buying/selling and want to show that you have suitable soil for septic, but don't want to pay the extra cost of a soil map.
- If you are in a county where the health department will send an environmentalist to do a "soil survey" in order to issue a permit, but you need some assurance before they are able to come out.

There are some important things to understand about a preliminary report

- It is not a soil map and will not be sufficient to directly pull a septic permit
- It is not as intensive as a soil map and has a larger margin of error
- Personally, I would never buy land based on a preliminary report. It offers hope that there would be sufficient soil, but I would not make a purchase on anything less than a soil map if I had the option.

Soil Map - This is an official document that will be sufficient to pull a septic permit.

What about a perc test? While the terminology "perc test" is still widely used, soil mapping is the primary way that septic permits are issued. There are some cases where a soil will not meet the criteria for a soil map, but a percolation test can be run as a second step to determine soil suitability. These are very uncommon and are not a service that I offer at this time.

I hope this helps give some clarity. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Ryan Collings