



Columbia County  
**Septic System/Soil Evaluation**

Planning & Zoning Department

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When an application for a building permit proposes either an increase in number of bedrooms, or an increase of more than 25% of the total gross area of the existing structure, a soil/system evaluation is required.

The owner must provide written documentation that the existing septic system has sufficient size and code compliant soil conditions to accommodate the proposal.

This would include:

1. Soil Verification, consisting of:
  - a. A valid soil report no older than 1994 or
  - b. A new soil evaluation, prepared by a certified soil tester.
2. System Evaluation, completed within the past one year by a licensed Master Plumber or Master Plumber-restricted sewer, a Certified Soil Tester, a Plumbing Inspector II or a POWTS Maintainer, including:
  - a. A signed document stating that the existing septic system is not a failing system, has sufficient size to accommodate the increased wastewater load, is not ponding, and is not discharging to the surface of the ground.
  - b. A plot plan showing the location of the septic tank and existing absorption area and include distances to all structures, wells, property lines, etc.
  - c. Information regarding the condition of all existing treatment tanks, including structural soundness, capacity, baffles and manhole covers.
3. Existing Holding Tank evaluation shall include:
  - a. Pumping and inspection of the tank for cracks and leaks, broken risers and manhole covers, proper locks and chains, working alarm and/or signal

The tank portion of the evaluation may be completed by a licensed septic hauler.

Wisconsin Administrative Code does NOT allow the evaluation of the absorption area to be completed by a licensed septic hauler.