



# Wastewater System Guidelines for Homeowners

## Site Investigation Info Sheet

**The Goal:** Accurately determine limitations that affect the design of the onsite system. An experienced investigator should also be able to assist in identifying options for the type of system, location, design, up-front costs, and on-going costs.

1. A Site Investigation is required, by law, for the design and permitting of an onsite wastewater system. The investigation looks at the feasibility of installing an onsite wastewater system when buying raw land or to replace an existing onsite system.
2. Who can do it? Registered Engineer, Sanitarian, Geologist, or person passing an approved design course. It may vary by county – some counties do the testing or must be present to witness the testing. (Example: Coconino County must perform the site investigation; Gila and Navajo County staff must witness the testing)
3. What is being investigated? Surface conditions such as slope, setbacks, drainage, flood potential, rock outcrops, and fill areas will be reviewed. Test holes will be excavated to determine subsurface conditions such as the soil absorption rate, amount of rock fragments, vertical separation to limiting conditions, cracks or voids, and shallow groundwater.
4. What to expect from the investigator? A written report will be provided using the state or county required form with documentation of the soil conditions and site limitations. An experienced investigator will discuss with you the possible technologies, capital and operational costs, aesthetics, and environmental impacts of the options.
5. See also AzOWRA's **Buying Land or Residential Property Info Sheet**.