

Mendocino County Division of Environmental Health

Policy # 910.6 (M)

Wet Weather Testing of Soils

WET WEATHER TESTING is performed for two separate and distinct purposes:

1. To determine PERMEABILITY during the wet season.
2. To determine the HIGHEST ANTICIPATED GROUND WATER LEVEL during the winter.

WET WEATHER TESTING TO DETERMINE PERMEABILITY

This is a percolation test done during the winter in Zone 3 and Zone 4 soils, or in expansive soils. This test can be performed during the **Wet Weather Season**, any time after 20" of rain has fallen, up to April 15th. This period can be extended in writing by the Director of Environmental Health.

WET WEATHER TESTING TO DETERMINE HIGHEST ANTICIPATED GROUND WATER LEVEL

SOIL MOTTLING

In many cases, the highest anticipated ground water level can be determined by soil mottles and gleying; this determination can be made at any time of the year. However, it must be recognized that not all soils exhibit mottling, and highest anticipated ground water levels may have to be observed directly by means of OBSERVATION WELLS.

OBSERVATION WELL METHOD

Since ground water levels rise to a certain level during the winter, and then fluctuate following rainfall patterns, it is necessary to measure ground water levels throughout the wet weather season if high water table levels are to be accurately determined. This is accomplished by the installation of OBSERVATION WELLS, at least TWO (2) per lot or parcel, more for larger central or commercial systems, and by periodically recording observed water levels during the wet weather season.

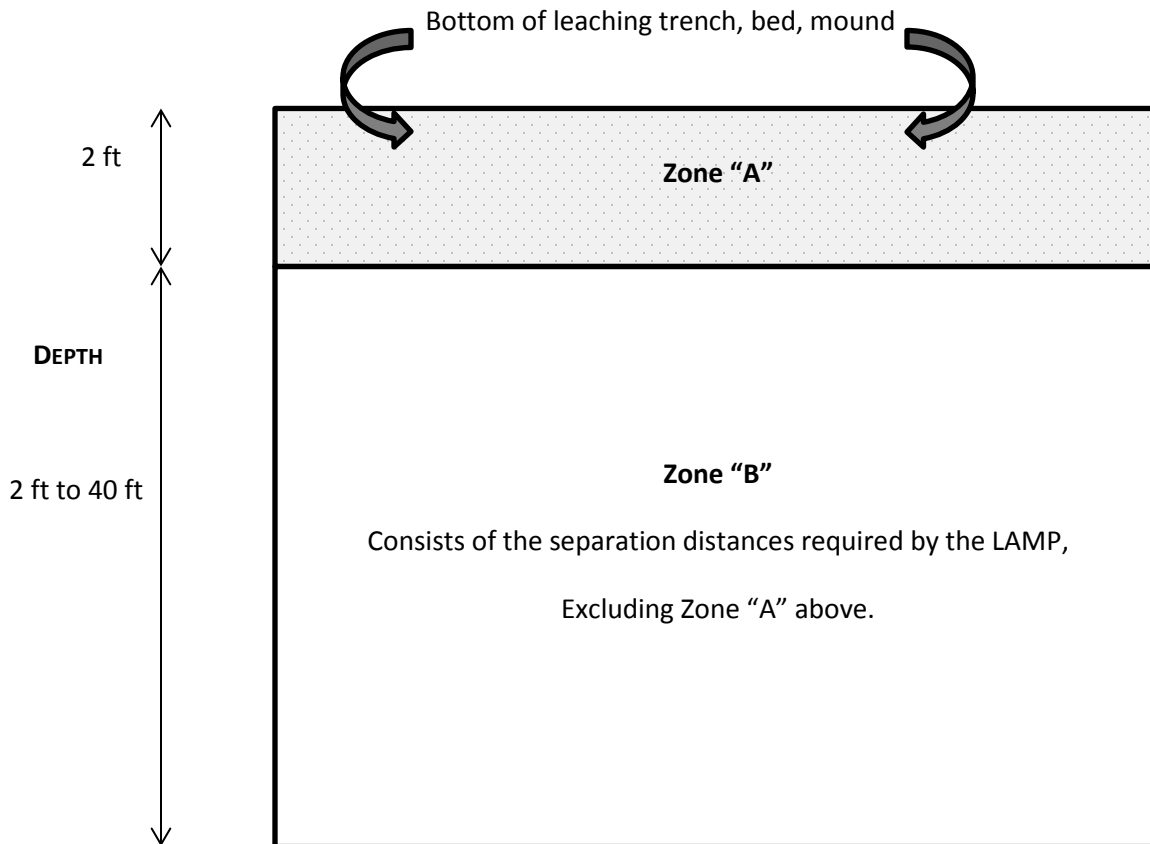
MONITORING PERIOD

Water levels shall be recorded WEEKLY, AND WITHIN 4 DAYS FOLLOWING A STORM where rainfall exceeds 1 inch in 48 hours. Use rainfall data from the nearest Health Department approved rainfall gauging station. Monitoring shall be required for a minimum of 4 weeks. In all cases monitoring shall include at least 2 storm events where rainfall exceeds 1 inch in a 48 hr period. During drought years, or years of unusual rainfall patterns, other requirements may be specified by the Director of Environmental Health.

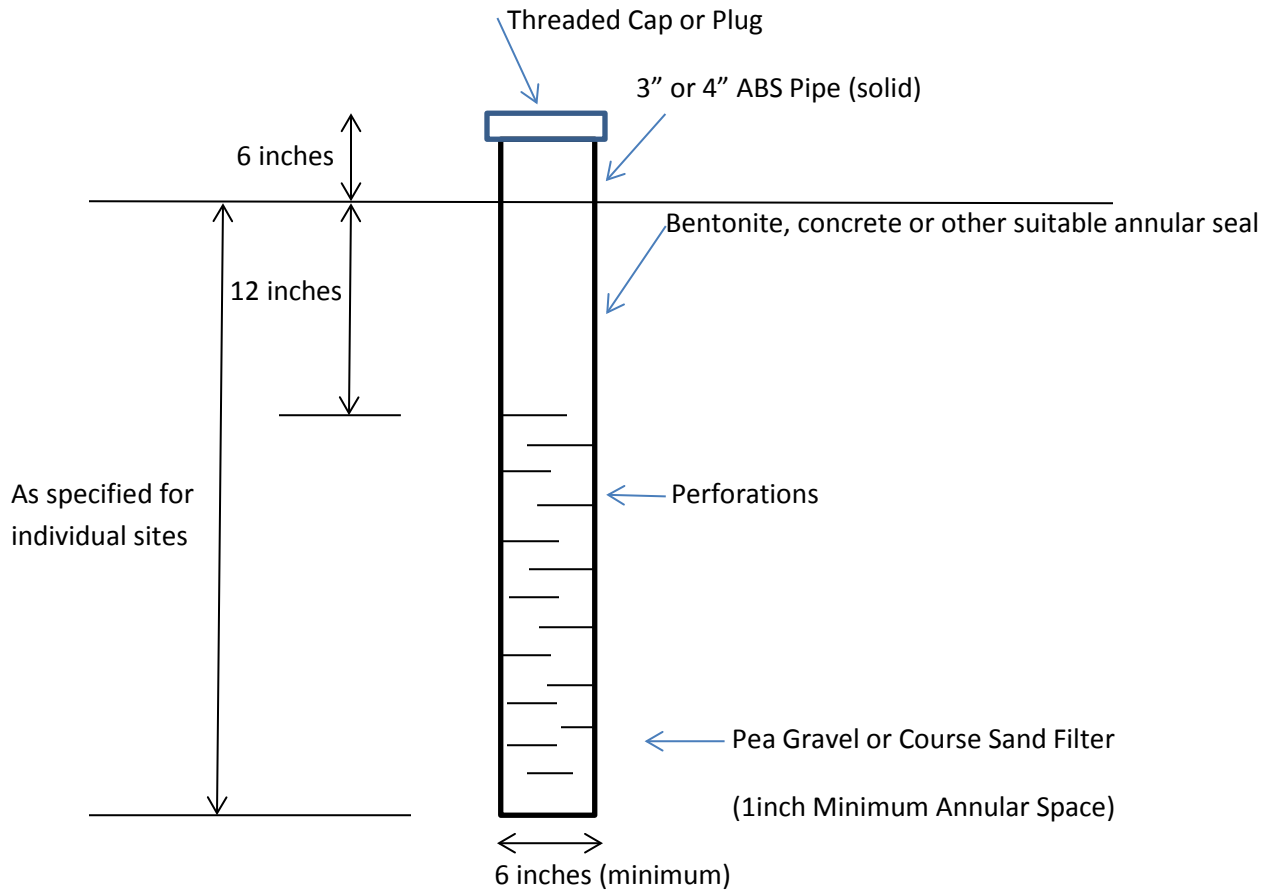
OBSERVATION WELL CONSTRUCTION

See Typical Observation Well drawing for **RECOMMENDED** construction. Observation Wells must be augured, drilled, or bored. Pipes in backhoe pits are generally unacceptable as observation wells, unless specified by the CONSULTANT.

Wet Weather Testing Criteria



Note: Zone "A" and "B" are descriptive terms only & do not refer to soil or water classifications.



TYPICAL OBSERVATION WELL