

## **CERTIFIED SOIL TESTERS**

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*You may hire any licensed soil tester. The above soil testers have done work in Marathon County and requested their names be included on the list.*

*Contact information is subject to change.*

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### **Installing a Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS), commonly referred to as a “septic system”:**

**Step 1: Soil Evaluation.** The first step in obtaining a sanitary permit is to have a soil evaluation completed on your property. The certified soil tester will evaluate the soils at your building site to determine the type, size and location of the proposed POWTS. This will be accomplished by excavating several backhoe pits. Provide the soil tester with as much information as you can regarding your preferred home location and size. Request that the soil tester stake out the system area so it is not destroyed during the construction process. Soil evaluation reports must be reviewed and approved by the Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department (CPZ). Where county verification is required, test pits must remain open until this has been completed.

**Step 2: Sanitary Permit.** A sanitary permit must be obtained prior to installing a POWTS or beginning construction of a structure that requires a POWTS. After the soil test has been completed and is approved by CPZ, the next step is to have your plumber or plumbing designer submit a system design to the CPZ for review (certain designs or uses will require state level plan review). Sanitary permit applications are typically prepared and submitted to CPZ by the plumber who will be installing the POWTS. Permits are issued by CPZ following review and approval of the plans and application.

**Step 3: System Installation.** The plumber who obtains the sanitary permit is responsible for the system installation. Once the system is installed, but before it is backfilled, an employee of the CPZ Department will inspect the system to verify that it meets State code. If the system was not installed completely or correctly you will receive a copy of a field directive explaining what the plumber must complete or change. If the system was installed properly and completed you will receive an acceptance letter. If you don't receive an acceptance letter the system is incomplete or incorrectly installed and not approved for use. No occupancy may occur until you have received the acceptance letter from the county.