

Improvement Permit (IP) Options:

An **Improvement Permit (IP)** is issued after we test the soil to make sure it can filter wastewater. In some counties, soil can be approved with just a hand auger test. In Stokes County, about 80% of our soils cannot be approved with just a hand auger and you will need to contact a BACKHOE OPERATOR to dig ***“pits”** so we can see the soil as it naturally occurs. **Contracting with a backhoe operator is at your own expense**, our office does not dig pits. Because we need backhoe pits so frequently, we provide a discount if you go ahead and schedule a backhoe to meet us on your lot for the first visit. If you choose to have us try to approve your soil with a hand auger, there is a high probability that you will still have to schedule a backhoe, which will require a second visit and extend your approval time.

A Construction Authorization (CA) is to obtain your building permits and get your address from Mapping. This is where we design your system. You will give this to your septic contractor and Building Inspections.

****CA permits do have a payment that will need to be paid before the permit can be released. ****

***This application is for both the IP permit and CA permit, 1st is the IP (soil evaluation) 2nd is the CA (Construction Authorization) ***

Option A: \$100 with Scheduled Backhoe Pits

- Schedule backhoe to meet with us, IP can be issued shortly after this visit
- Requires only one visit from Environmental Health
- If time is a concern for you, this is your best option to reduce your wait time for a permit

Option B: Hand Auger (Please see Fee Schedule for prices)

- If we disapprove your soil (which occurs 80% of the time), you will have to schedule a backhoe to meet with us which would **INCREASE YOUR WAIT TIME**
- If soil is approved with a hand auger (only happens 20% of the time), IP can be issued shortly after this visit and you will not have to schedule backhoe pits

* Pits are dug by a backhoe operator and are typically 5’ deep and roughly 5’-6’ wide with steps to allow for the inspector to enter the pit and evaluate the soil. You are responsible for hiring the backhoe operator. Note: For your convenience, a list of local backhoe operators, with phone numbers, is provided on our website. Stokes County does not recommend or endorse one operator over another.

On-Site Septic System Fees

Hand Auger Improvement Permit		Backhoe Pit Improvement Permit	Construction Authorization	
2 Bedrooms	\$150	\$100	2 Bedrooms	\$125
3 Bedrooms	\$175		3 Bedrooms	\$150
4 Bedrooms	\$200		4 Bedrooms	\$175
5 Bedrooms	\$225		5 Bedrooms	\$200
6+ Bedrooms	.50¢ per gallon		6+ Bedrooms	.50¢ per gallon