



# **TOWN OF HALIFAX COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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## **Board of Health**

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## **Percolation Testing**

Percolation (Perc) tests can be performed at any time of the year. However, if the groundwater is fairly (or very) high, then attempting a perc test in the spring may not pass (because the water is in the way and won't allow the water in the hole to percolate down. Those same soils in the same location can pass at a less wet time, such as August or September.

A method of handling high groundwater without a perc test is called the sieve analysis, where a lab sends the soil through sieves and arrives at the percentages of sand, silt, clay, etc. That method is only allowed by DEP for repairs. It is not allowed for new construction, according to DEP rules. So, that is the whole story but let me know if you have any other questions.