

## **Mercer County Health Department Septic System Information Sheet**

- (1) Before purchasing property in Mercer County contact the environmental branch of the Mercer County Health Department to set up an appointment for a soil evaluation. You will need to know the proposed structure location as well as the location of all property lines, easements, utility/water lines, wells, sinkholes, proposed driveways, and any other items that might impact the location of the septic system. You will be asked to provide a drawing or plat that includes all of the information listed above. You will also be required to complete an application that states what type of structure will be built. For homes you will need to know how many bedrooms will be built, if a garbage disposal will be installed, and if a basement will be constructed. For commercial facilities information must be submitted that will allow the waste load to be determined. The current fee for a soil evaluation in Mercer County is \$175. Backhoe pits are required for the evaluation. It is the applicant's responsibility to arrange for the backhoe to be present during the evaluation.
- (2) Upon completion of the evaluation a copy of the evaluation report and a temporary electrical service sticker will be forwarded to the applicant.
- (3) Before septic system construction is started, a septic system installation permit must be purchased from the Mercer County Health Department. The current permit fee is \$175. The permit must be obtained by a Kentucky certified septic system installer. The only exception to this is in the case when a homeowner does the installation and the homeowner personally performs all work. In these cases the homeowner must purchase the permit and sign the homeowner statement located on the permit. Homeowner permits cannot be obtained for commercial facilities or by builders or contractors who engage in the business of construction or rehabilitating residential structures for sale or resale. A drawing of the proposed system including grade shots must be submitted prior to the issuance of the permit. The inside plumbing permit will not be issued until the septic system permit is obtained. A permanent electrical service sticker will be issued at the time the permit is obtained.
- (4) Once the system is installed, the Mercer County Health Department must be contacted for final approval. An inspection will be conducted to determine that the system has been properly installed. A septic system approval sticker will be placed on the outside electric meter box or riser pipe. The Mercer County Building Inspector will not issue the certificate of occupancy until final septic system approval has been given. Final approval will not be given by the Mercer County Health Department until all aspects of the system have been completed. This requires that lagoon fences, additional backfill, installer's affidavits, etc. be completed before approval will be given.

### **Mercer County Health Department Contact Information**

Tony White, R.S., Environmental Supervisor (859) 734-2229 ext. 136

Cathy Akins, R.S., Senior Environmentalist (859) 734-2229 ext. 135

The environmental offices are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Mercer County Health Department located at 900 North College Street in Harrodsburg. Normal office hours for the environmental staff are 8-9a.m. and 1-1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### **State Plumbing Inspector Information**

Wendell Lawrence (859) 734-7360

The state plumbing inspector is in Mercer County on Wednesdays only from 8-9:30 a.m. The plumbing inspector's office is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Mercer County Health Department.