

HOW SOIL TYPE DECIDES THE FATE OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM



When it comes to septic systems, most homeowners focus on the tank itself — but there is more to the septic system than just the tank. The real hero (or troublemaker) is often the soil. Your soil type can determine whether your septic system works perfectly for decades... or becomes a constant headache.

WHY SOIL MATTERS

A septic system doesn't treat wastewater on its own — the soil does most of the heavy lifting. As water leaves your tank and enters the drainfield, it's filtered by soil particles, removing bacteria, viruses, and nutrients before the water reaches groundwater. If the soil doesn't filter well — or filters too quickly — you risk:

- Backups & overflows
- Groundwater contamination
- Costly repairs or replacements

COMMON SOIL TYPES & THEIR IMPACT

The exact number of soil "types" recognized can vary depending on the county or state. According to USDA soil surveys, most soils fall into one of these categories:

- Sandy Soils – Drain water quickly but may not remove enough contaminants before water reaches groundwater.
- Loamy Soils – A balanced mix of sand, silt, and clay — ideal for septic systems.
- Clay-Rich Soils – Drain very slowly, which can lead to standing water or system overload.

THE ROLE OF A PERC TEST

A percolation test measures how quickly water drains through your soil. It's required before installing most septic systems, and it's the only way to truly know what type of system will work best for your property.

PRO TIP:

Even if your septic system is already installed, knowing your soil type helps you manage water usage and schedule pumping to prevent overload.

Don't guess about your soil — call Sim Sanitation today for a professional soil and septic evaluation. It could save you thousands in repairs.