

**DPS**Montgomery County  
Department of Permitting Services

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[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps)

## **MEMORANDUM**

Date: February 9, 2026

To: Excavators, Surveyors, Engineers and Property owners

From: Heidi Benham, Manager  
Well and Septic Section

Re: 2026 Water Table Season

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2026 Montgomery County water table testing season. The wet season will open when groundwater levels have reached appropriate levels. **The tentative submission deadline will be Wednesday April 1, 2026. For updates, please check the [DPS Soils Testing webpage](#).** A water table test is required for a proposed sewage disposal area. Upon successful completion of a water table evaluation, sand mound or percolation tests (in non-restricted soils) may be conducted any time.

**Applications must be submitted electronically via [DPS eServices](#).** Submissions will not be reviewed until all required documents and plans have been submitted, and required fees have been paid. A complete application submission includes the following:

- **An engineered test plan.**
- **Applicable fees.** Fees must be paid in advance of conducting testing.
  - **Initial Plan Review Fee: \$551.56 per lot, and per proposed septic area**, regardless of the intended purpose of the proposed SRA.
  - **Water Table test fee: \$475.86 per lot, per visit, and per proposed septic area**
  - **Percolation test fee: \$843.57 per lot, per visit, and per proposed septic area**
  - **Sand mound test fee: \$1135.58 per lot, per 'run'** (a total of four sand mound tests constitutes a run).

**Other items:**

- **Address Assignment:** If the property has no legal address, you must submit an address assignment or verification memo issued by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). Please contact the DARC Division at 301-495-4609.
- **Subdivision Exemption** – Applications submitted for un-platted parcels that are exempt from platting requirements should include an exemption letter from M-NCPPC.
- **Proposed Subdivisions:**
  - **Requiring a Preliminary Plan** - Confirmation of application to M-NCPPC for subdivision which requires submission of a Concept Plan or Pre-Preliminary Plan.
  - **Requiring an Administrative Subdivision Plan** - Confirmation of application to M-NCPPC for subdivision which requires submission of a Concept Plan or Pre-Preliminary Plan, **OR** a signed letter from the property owner accepting responsibility and risk for conducting water table testing prior to submitting an application to M-NCPPC.

For additional information, contact Heidi Benham, Manager, Well and Septic Section, at 240-777-6318 or [Heidi.benham@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Heidi.benham@montgomerycountymd.gov)