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**BASAL PREP- Note: This basal prep procedure was agreed to be acceptable by HCPH upon review of research done by Areawide Septic and ClearCreek Environmental performed and submitted Jan. / Feb. 2023. This guidance differs from the HCPH Installer's Manual. See: <https://areawidesepticswoh.com/index.php/resources> "Hamilton County" for the research calculations on compaction on the basal area.**

See Section 10.4 Hamilton County Installer's Manual for any additional detailed instructions

Each basal prep to be carefully evaluated by the Installer and Sanitarian and the best course of action enacted for the site conditions.

- Clean Basal area of organic matter as much as possible. Remove brush and cut any trees off flush with the ground surface.
- Basal to have no plastic soils to 8" soil depth.
- Record the highest point along contour 1' upslope of where lateral is flagged. This will be top of sand (TOS). Final sand thickness as per the design specification on depth of sand will be measured from this point.
- Place 2-3 inches of sand on basal before chiseling. **NOTE: Installer must get HCPH Inspector's permission to place sand prior to chiseling. The incorporation of sand during chiseling is a site specific recommendation and will be determined by the inspector and installer at basal prep.**
- The depth of chiseling into the soil surface depends on site conditions.
  - Wooded sites- assuming all leaf litter is removed, just go down a couple of inches to avoid bringing up tree roots.  
If a tree root is caught, stop, raise up and move on and reset.
- If compacted on the surface, chisel deep enough to penetrate to good structure. Sand will trickle into chisel void to create a good interface. General guidance is to chisel 4-6" depth. Chisel no deeper than necessary to create a sand to soil structure interface to good soil structure.
- Avoid overworking the soil at all cost.

Avoid unnecessary foot traffic across the Basal.

Avoid excess tracking with the excavator when traversing on basal.

Avoid sudden, jerking movement or bouncing of the excavator when moving or chiseling.

After Chiseling, apply sand to the basal so that sand under the gravel bed is at the elevation previously defined to be T.O.S. (Top Of Sand).

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