If you are buying land in a residential or commercial area that cannot be connected to a municipal or city sewer system, you will need an on-site septic system to treat waste water.

Decisions that pertain to on-site septic systems in Oklahoma are based on soil properties in the area of interest.

You have to investigate before you invest!

Important Note: This material is meant to be a septic systems guide for initial screening of potential properties to buy. Before you decide to purchase a property, contact your local Oklahoma DEQ office at:

http://www.deq.state.ok.us/ecl-snew/localOffices.htm

For more information about onsite septic systems, contact:

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Prepared with some information gathered by Paige Klein.
How to go about your investigation?
1. Open up an internet browser and access the Web Soil Survey (WSS) by going to: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov. Click “Start WSS” to begin.

2. Locate your Area of Interest (AOI)
   - at the left side of the webpage, click “Address” under Quick Navigation.
   - type-in the address of your interest and click View to open a page showing a map that include your AOI.
   - Click and zoom-in to the location of your AOI.

How do I know which textural class is the finest?
Use the Textural Triangle.

Trends in the Textural Triangle
- Soil textural classes at the top of the triangle are finer than those at the bottom.
- Soils at the right are finer than those at the left.

3. Extract information about the soil mapping units in the AOI.
   - Click the Map Unit Name to view the Map Unit Description of each soil mapping unit.

4. Identify the finest soil texture class (or the soil with greatest fraction of fine separates) in the upper 48 inches.
   - Scroll down to particularly focus on the following site and soil properties:
     - Slope: if less than 10 percent, the system may require more advanced wastewater distribution system.
     - Depth from surface to restrictive feature and to water table: preferably less than 48 inches.
     - Frequency of flooding and ponding: this should be “none.” If there is potential for flooding and ponding, the area should NOT be used for onsite septic systems.
     - Drainage class: Preferably “Well-drained.”
     - Devote particular attention to description of Typical Profile.

Typical profile
- Determine the soil texture classifications in the upper 48 inches.

Important Note: Soils can be highly variable. Texture classes listed in the WSS should be viewed as best estimate.