

Installation Basics for On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems

These are general installation principles only, based on industry standards. Refer to SJBPH On-site Wastewater Treatment System Regulations for more information and specific requirements.

- A. Obtain permit and read it carefully
- B. Follow instructions on permit
 - a. If bedrock or groundwater is encountered at a depth that is inconsistent from that reported in the design, or a different soil type is encountered, stop construction and contact the engineer and SJBPH.
- C. Pipe
 - a. Fall in the pipe to the tank should be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " per foot and must be at least $\frac{1}{8}$ " per foot ($1\frac{1}{2}$ " per foot is recommended maximum) from tank to field.
 - b. The pipe to the tank must not have any short sweep 90° bends or "T" fittings.
 - c. A building-sewer cleanout should be installed outside the foundation. If the tank is located more than 100 feet from the house, additional cleanouts must be installed every 100 feet.
 - d. Schedule 40 PVC pipe is recommended within the tank excavation. No pipe joints should be installed within the tank excavation. Joints should be placed on undisturbed ground outside the tank excavation.
 - e. Schedule 40 PVC pipe is required under roads and driveways.
 - f. Water line and irrigation ditch crossings or encroachment require sewer line (or water line) encasement.
- D. Septic Tanks
 - a. Tanks must be set at least 5 feet from dwellings and 10 feet from property lines.
 - b. Tank must be set level and placed on a stable base to minimize settling.
 - c. Tank must have a minimum of 12 inches of cover.
 - d. Tanks should be pumped every 3-5 years (more often with a garbage disposal).
 - e. Tanks must be at least 50 feet from all water wells.
 - f. All new tank installations require watertight riser and lid to access all compartments from grade.
- E. Soil Treatment Area (STA) AKA leach field
 - a. Field must be a minimum of 100 feet for all wells.
 - b. Do not construct STA's while soil is wet or frozen.
 - c. The infiltrative STA surface must be level.

- d. Inspection ports are required at the inlet and terminal end of each line; at all corners of a bed is acceptable. This helps delineate STA footprint.
- e. The STA must be graded to ensure positive drainage (away from) after settling and be protected from stormwater run on, irrigation water, etc.
- f. To avoid soil compaction, heavy equipment should not enter the STA excavation.
- g. All traffic should be restricted from STA post-construction and livestock should be fenced out.

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