

BRANCH – HILLSDALE - ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY

www.bhsj.org

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On-Site Sewage Disposal System Requirements for 1 and 2 Family Dwellings*

NOTE: Upon request, the Community Health Agency will inspect a lot or parcel before you buy or sell to determine if it is suitable for on-site sewage disposal and advise you of any restrictions relative to the lots suitability.

PERMIT REQUIRED: A septic system construction permit from the Community Health Agency is required before beginning construction on any new on-site sewage disposal system or extension or repair of any existing on-site sewage disposal system. A septic system construction permit is required before a property owner can obtain a building construction permit from the building official.

INSTALLERS: A list of septic system installers, who elect to participate by demonstrating knowledge of the local Environmental Health Code and pay an annual fee to Community Health Agency, is available from each local county Environmental Health office. Persons who install a system for their own private residence are also required to obtain a septic system construction permit and comply with the minimum standards.

INSPECTIONS: A final inspection and approval is required prior to back filling with final earth cover. The Environmental Health Office of the Community Health Agency *must be notified at least 24 hours in advance* of inspection time. The on-site sewage disposal system must remain uncovered for inspection until inspected and approved by Agency sanitarian staff.

MINIMUM ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

| Source | Septic Tank | Absorption Area |
|--|-------------|-----------------|
| Private Well (single family) | 50 feet | 50 feet |
| Well Water Line – unprotected suction | 50 feet | 50 feet |
| Potable Water Pressure Line | 10 feet | 10 feet |
| Surface Water Body (lake, river, stream, etc.) | | |
| Construction after 7/1/75 | 50 feet | 50 feet |
| Construction prior to 7/1/75 | 25 feet | 25 feet |
| Building Foundation | | |
| Subsurface (basements and crawlspaces) | 10 feet | 10 feet |
| At grade (concrete slab or other above grade) | 5 feet | 5 feet |
| Drop-off (Slope of 25% or greater) | 10 feet | 10 feet |
| Footing Drains | 10 feet | 25 feet |
| Sub-Surface Drains | 10 feet | 25 feet |
| Drainage Ditches | 10 feet | 10 feet |
| Property Lines | 5 feet | 5 feet |
| Swimming Pools | 10 feet | 10 feet |

* For all on-site sewage disposal systems other than 1 or 2 family dwellings, state guidelines (The Michigan Criteria) regulate the size and isolation distances. A permit from the Community Health Agency is required for these other “commercial” facilities.

SEWER LINES: Schedule 40 PVC plastic is required. Sewer lines must be >10 feet from well or pressure water line.

WATER TABLE: The bottom of the excavation for the absorption area must be minimum of 4 ft. above the seasonal high ground water table.

DRYWELLS: Use of drywells is not allowed unless determined by the Health Officer that no alternative is available.

SEPTIC TANKS: Septic tanks must be watertight by adequately sealing seams and areas around inlet and outlet pipes.

OUTLETS: Vented elbows, outlet tees, or effluent filters are required at the outlet end of the septic tank.

INSPECTION PORTS: The top of a septic tank shall not be buried deeper than 20 inches beneath the finished ground surface, unless a riser is provided above the access opening at the outlet end of the septic tank. The top of the riser, when installed, shall not be buried deeper than 1 foot from the finished ground surface. The riser shall be equipped with a hatch or cover of reinforced concrete, or other material of equivalent properties. Risers with lids at grade are strongly encouraged and may be required.

PUMPS AND ALTERNATING DEVICES: Equipped with riser and lid at grade for easy access from ground surface.

FINAL COVER: Final cover over the drainage area must not exceed 3 feet. Finished grade in the area over the drainage system should be pre-planned to avoid greater than 3 feet of cover. Area over the drain fields must be sloped to avoid collection of surface water runoff or roof drainage.

SPRINKLER SYSTEMS AND SWIMMING POOLS: Above or below ground should not be installed in close vicinity to the drainage area.

HOLDING TANKS: Sewage holding tanks are not permitted for new construction. An alarm system is required to be installed on a sewage holding tank that is installed as a last resort. The property is also required to enter into a deed addendum agreement with the Community Health Agency which must be filed with the County Register of Deeds.