Panhandle Health District
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Panhandle Health District

PANHANDLE HEALTH DISTRICT I

SEWAGE SYSTEM PERMIT APPLICATION AND INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

GENERAL NOTES

- Check with local Health District for regulations and forms. Some building permit applications require a valid Sewage Permit prior to Health District sign-off.
- No approvals for sewage disposal systems can be given unless an application has been received. No verbal approvals will be given.
- Installation of a septic system on the Rathdrum Aquifer requires a minimum parcel size of five (5) acres, or must be a parcel created before December 20, 1977, or must be within the boundaries of a municipal sewage management area that has been approved by the Board of Health.
- Any person who constructs, alters, or extends an individual sewage disposal system must hold a valid permit from the Panhandle Health District. Any person who contracts to do such work must be licensed by the Health District.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS

- Submit a completed application for desired permit and pay fee(s). New site assessments may be required for repair/replacement systems. **Applications can be submitted electronically to ehapplications@phd1.idaho.gov**.
- Submit a dimensional or scaled site plan showing all current and proposed buildings, and the minimum horizontal setbacks shown on the attached table.
- Include accurate directions to the site, names of roads, mileage, signs, etc.

FEES:

Subsurface Sewage Permit	**$1250**
Expansion Permit – Existing drainfield expanded greater than 10%	**$500**
Septic Tank, Vault Privy, or Pit Privy Permit	**$300**
Repair Permit (Replacement of **failing** system)	**$500**
Speculative Site Evaluation (soil review for planning purposes only)	**$550**
Permit Renewal – Must apply for renewal prior to expiration date	**$50**

NOTE: PERMITS MAY TAKE UP TO 10 WORKING DAYS AFTER WE HAVE BEEN CONTACTED REGARDING **TESTHOLE COMPLETION OR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS - <u>NOT FROM THE TIME OF APPLICATION</u>.**

Guidelines for Digging Test Holes:

- **Applicant is responsible for excavation of test holes**. Call Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) prior to digging test holes and/or schedule appointment to have test holes reviewed at time of dig.
- System size is determined by soil type.
- Soil type is determined by an eight-foot deep testhole.
- Testhole(s) must be at least three feet wide and sloped on one side to allow a person to walk into.
- Start with a testhole at the center of the proposed drainfield area. Dig another testhole approximately 75 feet away. If soils are not suitable, move to another area and repeat process.
- Slope in the area of the proposed drainfield cannot exceed 20 percent. (Slope in excess of 20 percent may be considered depending on site.)
- Drainfield must be in excess of 100 to 300 feet from streams, lakes and ponds. (Distance will vary depending on soil types.)
- Do not dig in draws, fill areas, wet areas, near springs, wells or surface water.
- A replacement area is required that meets the same standards as the initial drainfield.
- *Please note: Garden-type backhoes cannot be used as they cannot dig adequate testholes. Testholes should be covered as soon as possible after the inspection is completed. Uncovered holes present a hazard to livestock, wildlife, and children.

If Testholes are Acceptable:

- Application and site plan are updated, if necessary, to reflect actual site conditions.
- Permit application is reviewed for compliance with State regulation. Permit is then distributed or prepared for pick-up if approved.
- After permit has been issued, install system according to approved plans. Health District Environmental Health Specialist must inspect system after components are connected and before covering. **DO NOT COVER ANY PORTION OF THE SYSTEM WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THIS OFFICE**.
- An Environmental Health Specialist will use the contact information provided when the final inspection is called in, to notify the system installer if the installation has been approved or disapproved. After approval, cover with suitable soil. No road, parking areas or structures can be built over the drainfield.
- Note: Applicant needs to contact the State Plumbing Board through the State of Idaho to have the water and sewer lines from the structure to the septic tank inspected.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- From septic tank to drainfield, a heavy-grade pipe is required--3033 PVC, 3034 PVC, Schedule 40 PVC, Schedule 40 ABS.
- Drainfields must follow the contour of the hillside and maintain level.
- Drainrock must be a washed, ½ inch to 2 ½ inches in diameter and must be clean.
- Drainrock systems must be covered throughout with untreated building paper, a synthetic filter fabric (geotextile), a three-inch layer of straw or other acceptable permeable material.
- Precast or PVC inlet and outlet sanitary tees will be required on all septic tanks and must extend into liquid layer.
- Approved products are listed in the Technical Guidance Manual for Individual and Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems (TGM). Follow manufacturer's recommendations and TGM criteria for all components.

MINIMUM SEPTIC TANK REQUIREMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

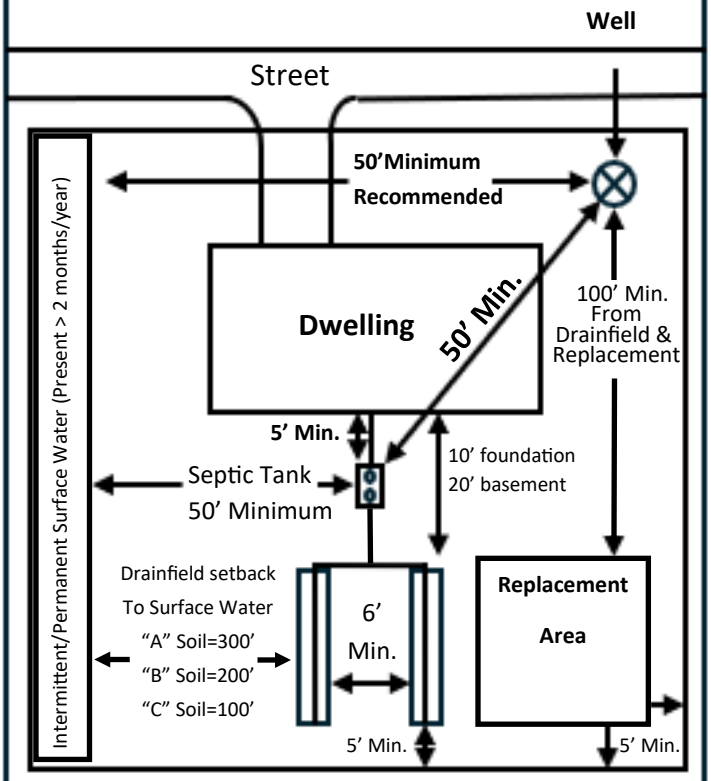
1. Minimum Size (One to Four Bedroom Home) is 1000 gallons.
2. Each additional bedroom requires 250 gallons additional volume.

MINIMUM HORIZONTAL SETBACKS, IN FEET

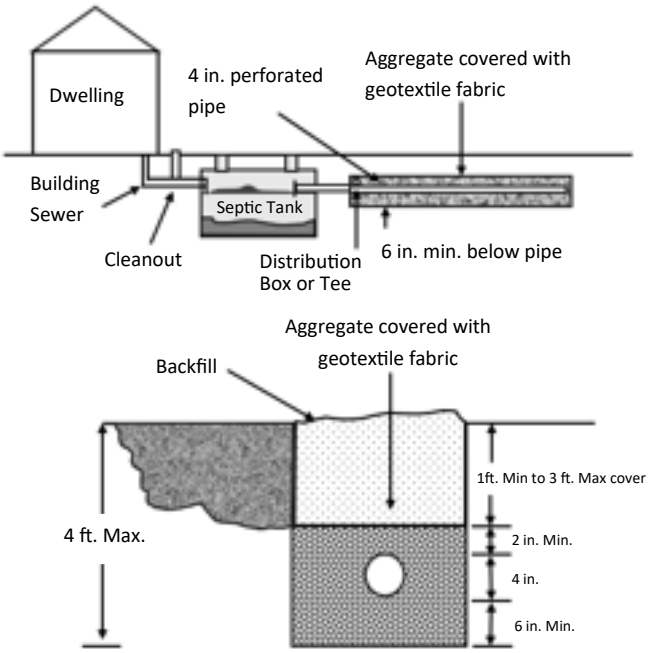
Component of System	Well or Suction Line	Water Line Pressure	Body of Water* or Stream	Dwelling Foundation	Property Line
Building Sewer	Public 100 Private 50	10	--	--	--
Septic Tank	Public 100 Private 50	Public 25 Private 10	50	5	5
Drainfield or Abs. Bed	100	25	100-300	Basement - 20 Slab or Crawl Space - 10	5

*Distance measured to high water mark. Exact distance depends on soil type.

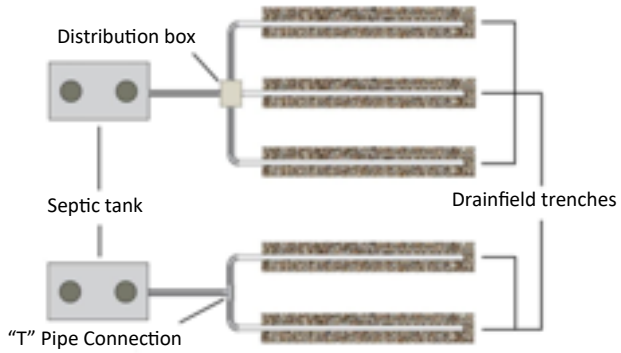
Example Plot Plan



Cross Section of a Gravel System

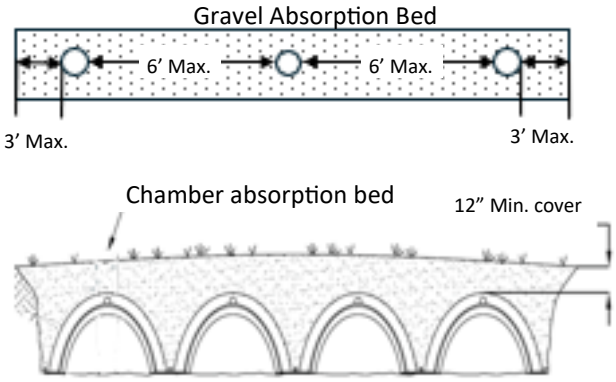


Equal distribution is preferred for effluent distribution



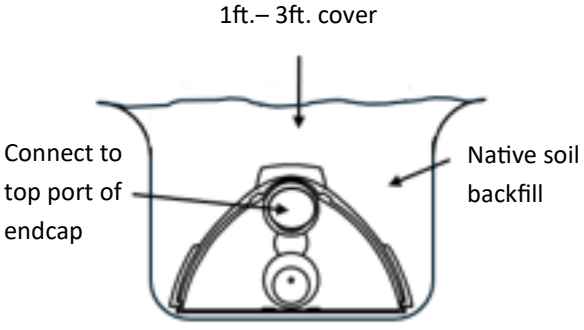
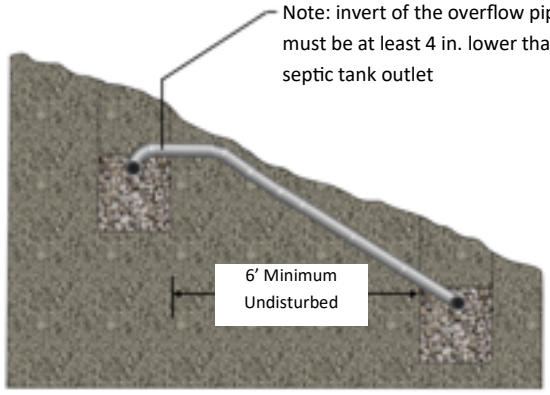
*DEQ recommends that the piping header only be used in installations involving two trenches

Absorption Beds*



* Only used with prior approval due to space constraints

Graveless chamber (dome) pipe trenches



Serial distribution with gravel