



Placer County Health and Human Services Department

Setback Requirements for On-Site Sewage Disposal (Septic Systems)*

Distance Required From:	Disposal field (initial & replacement)	Septic tank and sand filter	Seepage Pit
Wells			
Public well	150'	100'	200'
Private well	100'	50'	150'
Other wells, excluding monitoring wells	100'	50'	150'
Surface waters ¹			
Reservoirs, lakes, perennial streams	100'	100'	150'
Intermittent streams, drainage swales	50'	50'	50'
Spring and ponds			
Upgradient	50'	50'	100'
Downgradient	100'	50'	100'
Artificial drains—Vertical/Curtain Drains			
Upgradient of System	15'	15'	N/A
Downgradient of System	50'	25'	N/A
Water canals ²			
Flat area	50'	50'	100'
Sloping area			
Upgradient	Clear ROW ³	Clear ROW ³	100'
Downgradient	100'	50'	100'
Cuts manmade in excess of 2.5 feet (top of downslope cut) or escarpments	4 x h ₄ to maximum of 50'	20'	4 x h ₄ to maximum of 50'
Property lines			
Adjacent property with public water	10'	5'	10'
Adjacent property with private water	10' ₅ or 50'	10'	10' ₅ or 75'
Foundation lines of any structure including garages, out-buildings, and paved surfaces	8'	5' ₇	8'
Swimming pools			
In-ground	20'	20'	20'
Above-ground	5'	5'	5'
All Water lines ⁶	10'	5'	10'
Easements	clear	clear	Clear

Footnotes:

* If a setback is not specified in this Table, the most recently Board of Supervisors-adopted Uniform Plumbing Code setback will be applied.

1. Setbacks from streams and creeks shall be measured from bank drop-off or mean yearly high water mark.
2. Unless otherwise indicated in this table, in the case of flat ground surface and when a different distance is given for upgradient and downgradient, the greater setback distance shall apply
3. ROW = Right of Way
4. h = the height (in ft) of the cut or escarpment as measure from the toe of the cut or escarpment vertically to the projection of the natural ground slope.
5. 10' separation applies where adjacent parcels have been developed with a dwelling and approved water supply. 50' (or 75') shall be used when adjacent parcels have not been so developed. For subdivisions, disposal fields may be 10' from interior property lines in private well areas if a well has been drilled on the affected parcel and meets Division standards for an approved domestic water supply. The greater setback shown above shall apply to parcels adjacent to the subdivision. However, written approval from any affected, adjacent property owner to allow a reduction of the required setback can be approved by the Division.
6. Unless otherwise approved by Environmental Health, crossing of water lines with effluent sewer lines is prohibited.
7. There are no setback requirements for a septic tank to a paved surface

A system may be installed underneath overhead power lines or cross other utilities (e.g. canals) providing all of the following conditions are met:

- a) Written authorization is received from the utility company operating and maintaining the utility affected or for which the easement or restriction was granted.
- b) The Division determines that the encroachment is necessary and there is no other viable area in which to install the system.
- c) All construction modifications required by the Division and the affected utility company(ies) are instituted to carry out the purposes of Placer County's On-Site Sewage Program Ordinance.