



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

North Central Public Health District

“Caring for our Community”

419 East Seventh Street, The Dalles, OR 97058

Phone: 541-506-2600 Fax: 541-506-2601

Website: www.ncphd.org

Installation Guide for Septic Systems

The information supplied is meant to cover general circumstances. Specific information is supplied by the Environmental Health Specialist and located on the Installation Permit.

• **Starting from the house:**

- All piping from the house to the septic tank is regulated by State Building Codes. Specific questions and variations of the rules need to be approved by Building Codes at (541-298-4461).
- The required slope from the house to the tank is ¼” per linear foot.

• **Tanks**

- All tanks need to be Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approved and they need a water tight riser that extends to the soil surface over both the man hole and over the inlet tee fitting.
- Tanks need to be installed level. There may be a need for a gravel backfill to prevent pressure points on the tank bottom and sides.
- Tank fittings are usually designed for 4” ABS pipe or schedule 40 P.V.C.; specific information should be supplied by the manufacturer.
- All tanks need a water tight test. A tank will need to be filled with water into the water tight riser 2” and no more than one gallon of leakage in 24 hr. period.

• **Set Backs**

- Septic Tank to house or other buildings- 5’ minimum separation.
- Septic Tank to property line- 5’ minimum separation.
- Septic Tank to any well- 50’.
- Disposal trenches need to have the set back from property lines, buildings and septic tank of 10’.
- Disposal trenches to all wells (drinking water or irrigation) needs to be 100’.

• **Effluent Header Pipe Slope/Drop**

- On an **Equal** drain field there must be a minimum 6” drop in effluent pipe from the outlet of the tank to the inlet of the distribution box or at be least 4” drop per 100’.
- On a **Serial** drain field there must be a minimum of 2” drop from the outlet of the tank to the inlet of the drop box.

• **Drop Box – Distribution Box**

- These units are quite different and are used in different applications even though the terms are interchanged.
- Drop boxes** are used on serial drain fields; they have two “high holes” and two “low holes”.
- Distribution boxes** are used with equal drain fields; they have one “high hole” and three or more “low holes.”
- The Drop/Distribution boxes need to be on firm ground so caution is needed not to over excavate the area of the boxes.

• **Disposal Trench**

- Use only Oregon DEQ approved materials.
- Trenches need to be level (this is critical). The first 4’ from either the drop or distribution box needs to be solid pipe and backfilled with soil. Then the perforated pipe or approved trench material can be used.
- The standard trench is 24” wide.
- Trench depths marked on the installation permit are for the maximum trench depth (bottom of the trench).
- Minimum trench depths will vary between serial and equal drain fields; this will be stated on your permit.
- Maximum trench length is 150’ unless otherwise approved.

Questions regarding site specific information are always encouraged.

Please contact Environmental Health at the North Central Public Health District at (541) 506-2603