

Procedures for Obtaining an Onsite Wastewater System

Permits may be signed only by the owner, contractor, or agent. Agents must be a Registered Civil Engineer, Registered Geologist with Specialty Certification in Engineering Geology as recognized by the State of California or a Registered Environmental Health Specialist or have a letter of authorization from the owner of record.

A sewage disposal permit will not be issued until a profile hole application has been issued and a disposal system plan has been approved.

All systems shall be installed only in the area shown on the final approved/issued plan. Any variations from the approved plan will require as-built plans and will be subject to applicable fees

Note: A new dwelling permit will not be issued by the Building Department until a sewage disposal permit is issued. A foundation inspection cannot be done until the open trench inspection is approved.

Steps for Approval

Plot plan and profile holes

1. Submit three copies of the plot plan per county specifications.
2. At the time plot plans are submitted, a profile hole application can be issued for a \$231.00 fee.
3. A minimum of two (4) profile holes are required (spacing will be at the discretion of county staff or engineer retained by the owner). One (2) profile hole shall be dug in the proposed sewage disposal area and one (2) in the proposed expansion area. Profile holes shall be 2' to 3' in width and 6' to 8' in depth and one end of the trench shall be sloped to allow access into hole.

Note: The Department requests that the profile holes not be excavated more than 24 hours in advance of the inspection and must be backfilled with 24 hours of inspection. Property corner pins must be located and flagged with ribbon or tape.

* For parcels located in fully engineered areas the above process shall be initiated by a Registered Civil Engineer, Registered Geologist, or a Registered Environmental Health Specialist.

Profile hole inspection

1. The onsite inspection will confirm that the plot plan accurately represents field conditions. A visual soils analysis and soils logs documented by county staff are retained in the property file to confirm that a subsurface absorption system can or cannot be installed in acceptable soils.
2. Following the profile hole inspection, county staff will approve or deny the plan based on the soil findings.

3. Upon approval from staff, the owner of record will have one (1) year from the approval date to get the permit issued. At the time of issuance a Licensed Contractors Declaration or Owner/Builder form shall be filled out. From the date of issuance, the permit shall be valid for one (1) additional year to complete the installation of the system.
4. Upon denial of a standard system from staff, the owner of record shall contact a Registered Civil Engineer, Registered Geologist, or a Registered Environmental Health Specialist to design a system based on the soils criteria.

Sewage disposal permit and inspections

1. The inspection card and approved plans shall be posted in a suitable location on the property when work is commenced and shall remain posted until final inspection and final approval is granted from the Calaveras County Onsite Sewage Department.
2. Call twenty-four (24) hours in advance to schedule all required inspections @ 754-6400.

Setback requirements

The minimum separation distances are as follow:	Septic tank & other treatment units	Leach field
Any water supply well – private or public	100’	100’
Water supply pipes (on site)	10’	10’
Streams, waterways, (flowing)	50’	100’
Private lake or reservoir**	50’	200’
Public water supply, lake or reservoir	200’	200’
Buildings or structures on continuous or pier foundations	5’	10’
Distribution box	3’	5’
Disposal field	5’	-
Drainage course (seasonal)	25’	50’
Driveway, patio or other hard surface*	-	10’
Property lines less than five acres	10’	10’
Property lines 5 acres and larger	50’	50’

All minimum distances shall be measured on the horizontal.

* Septic tanks installed under hard surfaces shall have manhole risers to grade.

** Private pond setbacks may be reduced to a 100’ with departmental approval.

The following table shall be used to compute septic tank capacity for dwellings:

2 – 3 bedrooms	1200 gallons
4 bedrooms	1500 gallons
5 bedrooms	2000 gallons

Minimum system size = 2 bedrooms