GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES TO OBTAIN A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT, ALTER OR REPAIR A SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALPINE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS

Alpine County Health and Human Services
Environmental Health
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A. Submit an application of:

1. An application form as provided by the Alpine County Health Department

2. A site plan of the proposed sewage disposal system (3 copies) showing:

   a. Roads adjoining property (and names of same):

   b. Streams, lakes and water courses (and names of same);

   c. On adjoining properties within 100' of proposed installation

      1) Wells, springs and water courses

   d. On the property, the proposed and/or existing

      1) Buildings;
      2) Water supply source, well spring, stream, public, etc.;
      3) Septic Tank
      4) Sewage effluent absorption system (leaching trenches, beds or pits);
      5) Driveway

3. Elevations (slope) of land, direction and degree.

4. Site plan for residences need not be to scale.

B. If the proposed sewage disposal system is satisfactory for the site, and proposed sewage load, a permit will be issued for installation of the system. Otherwise, the necessary corrections must be made to the site plan and system specifications before a permit can be issued.

Whenever the construction or location of a proposed sewage disposal system may constitute a menace to public health, the Minimum Sewage Disposal Requirements shall be altered as deemed necessary by the Health Officer. All land division, commercial developments, dwelling units of 3 or more, or subdivisions must be approved by the California State Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region, for sewage disposal.

C. In order that the Health Department may properly evaluate the property, the property corners shall be located and flagged prior to the on-site lot evaluation and permit issuance.

D. Septic tanks or other primary components shall be filled with water to flow line prior to requesting inspection. All seams or joins shall be left exposed (except the bottom) and the tank shall remain watertight. A flow test shall be performed through the system to the point of effluent disposal. All lines and components to leaching area shall be watertight.

Length, width and depth of leaching trenches shall be determined by either:

a) Soil conditions; b) Percolation tests; c) Soil profiles, or a combination of a), b) and c)

Disposal systems for commercial establishments shall be designed by a California Registered Civil Engineer. Installation of systems designated by and R.C.E. shall be inspected, approved and certified as to installation of R.C.E.

Garbage disposal units are not permitted in restaurants served by individual sewage disposal systems.

LEACHING TRENCHES

LEACHING TRENCH SPECIFICATIONS – Leaching trenches are preferred to leaching pits in Alpine County.

Leaching trenches shall conform to the following standards:

The minimum lot size for the use of a new septic system within an existing subdivision shall have a net area greater than or equal to 15,000 sq. ft. However, those lots granted a waiver by Lahontan are exempted from this requirement.

The percolation rate in the disposal area shall not be faster than 5 minutes per inch, nor slower than 60 minutes per inch for the discharge to a leachfield.

Heavy clay, bedrock, or other materials impermeable to passage of water shall be not less than 5 feet below the bottom of the leaching trench.

Natural ground slope in the disposal area shall not be greater than thirty percent (30%)

All private sewage disposal systems shall be so designated that additional leach fields, equivalent to at least one hundred percent (100%) of the required original system, may be installed should the original system fail.

Where leaching beds are permitted in lieu of trenches, the area of each such bed shall be at least 50% greater than the requirement for trenches.

Length of individual trenches – 100 feet maximum (maximum recommended length 80 feet)

Bottom width of trench – 18 inches minimum

Effective depth of trench, i.e., depth of rock aggregate under effluent (perforated) pipe – 3 feet
Shallower and wider trenches area advised in high water table areas

Rock aggregate over effluent (perforated pipe) – 2 inches minimum. The hard rock aggregate shall range in size from ¾ inch to 2 – 21/2 inches, but free from fine dust, sand and clay

Untreated paper or straw (cover) shall be placed over rock aggregate to prevent infiltration of soil back-fill (fines)

Minimum depth of soil back-fill over untreated paper or straw cover – 12 inches

Where the soil is subject to deep frost or freezing, the soil back-fill should be greater – 18 inches recommended

The top of a new leaching trench shall be hand tamped (not by machine) and shall be over filled with 4 to 6 inches of earth to allow for settlement

Grade of effluent (perforated) pipe shall be laid level to 3 inches per 100 feet

SOIL PERCOLATION RATE TEST: When required for dwelling, subdivision, or commercial establishments, test shall be conducted by a civil engineer, geologist, environmental health specialist, or approved soil testing laboratory in accordance with Standard Percolation Rate Test, "Manual of Septic Tanks Practice, U.S. Public Health Service, " and results submitted to the Health Department on approved forms.

TABLE I - 1
LOCATION OF SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM

Minimum Horizontal Distance Required From	Building Sewer	Septic Tank	Leaching Trench
Building or structures*	2 feet	5 feet	8 feet
Property line adjoining private property	Clear	5 feet	5 feet
Water supply wells	50 feet	50 feet	100 feet ***
Streams	50 feet	50 feet	100 feet
Large trees	----------	10 feet	10 feet
Disposal field	----------	5 feet	**
Domestic water line	1 foot	5 feet	5 feet
Public water main	10 feet	10 feet	10 feet
Distribution box	----------	5 feet	5 feet

** Minimum distance between trenches shall be 10 feet on center
*** Minimum separation of 150 feet required between leaching trench and community water well

NOTE: For parcels created after April 1, 1973, the preceding distance requirements do not apply. Check with the local Health Department for proper distance requirements. Where special hazards are involved, the distance required shall be increased as may be directed by the Health Officer.

TABLE I – 2
CAPACITY OF SEPTIC TANKS

Single Family Dwelling: No. of Bedrooms	Multiple Dwelling Units or Apartments, One Bedroom Each	Other Uses; Max. Fixture Unit Served	Minimum Septic Tank Capacity in Gallons
1, 2 or 3		20	1000
4	2 Units	25	1200
5 or 6	3	30	1500
	4	45	2000
	5	55	2250
	6	60	2500
	7	70	2750
	8	80	3000
	9	90	3250
	10	100	3500

Extra bedroom, 150 gallons each
Extra dwelling units over 10, 250 gallons each
Extra fixture units over 100, 25 gallons per fixture unit

All concrete septic tanks shall be protected from corrosion by coating inside with an approved bituminous coating or by other acceptable means. The coating shall extend to at least 4 inches below the water line, and shall cover all of the internal area above that point.

* Distance requirements shall include porches and steps whether covered or uncovered, breezeways, roofed porte-cocheres, roofed patios, car port, covered walks, covered driveways and similar structures or appurtenances.