



**TULARE COUNTY  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

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**SEPTIC DISPERSAL AREA – SIZING INFORMATION**

*Instructions: First determine the size of septic tank required. Then, use the required tank size and the soil type to determine the required leachfield size (Note: leachline lengths are calculated based on a standard 3-foot wide trench, seepage pit depths assume a 4-foot wide pit and estimated rock/gravel amount assumes a rock diameter of 1.5 inches).*

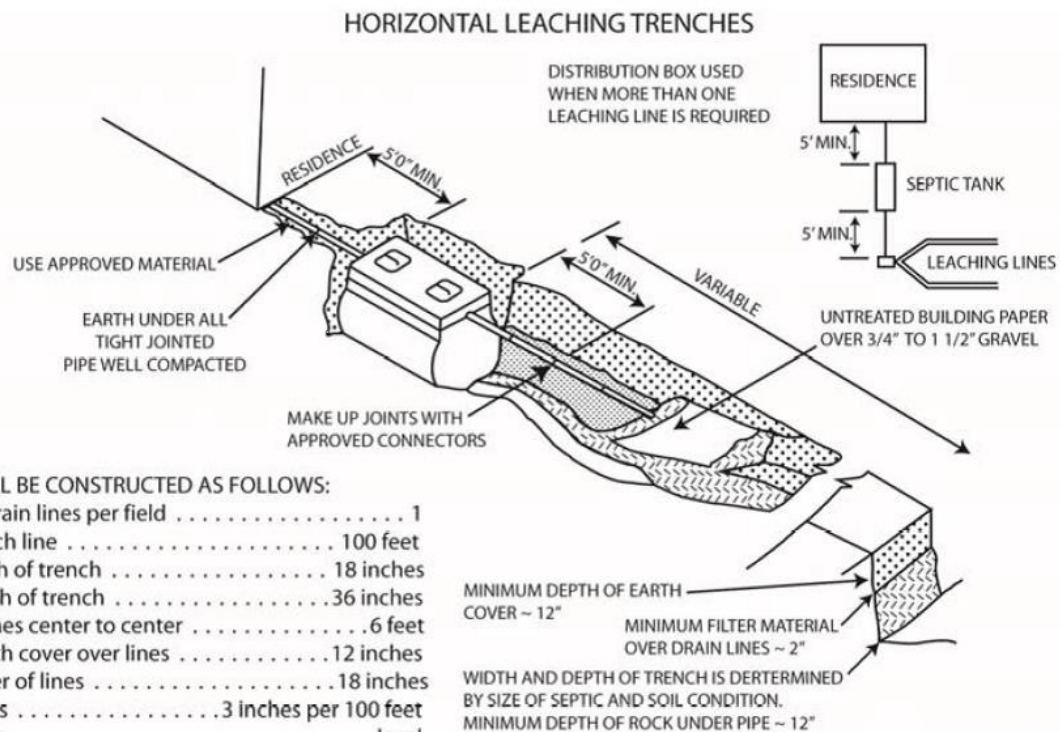
SOIL		SIZE	ROCK 1 1/2"	LEACH LINES				4' DIAMETER BRICKED PITS	
TYPE OF SOIL	SQ. FEET LEACH AREA/100 GAL.	SQ. FT. REQ'D	TONS REQ'D	12" ROCK UNDER PIPE (3 sqft/FT)	24" ROCK ** UNDER PIPE (5 sqft/FT)	30" ROCK UNDER PIPE (6 sqft/FT)	36" ROCK UNDER PIPE (7 sqft/FT)	SQ.FT. REQ'D	LIQUID DEPTH
<b>SANDY SOIL (NO CLAY)</b>									
750 GALS	25	188	14	63' x 3'	38' x 3'	32' x 3'	27' x 3'	188	15'
1000 GALS		250	19	84' x 3'	50' x 3'	42' x 3'	36' x 3'	250	20'
1200 GALS		300	22	100' x 3'	60' x 3'	50' x 3'	43' x 3'	300	24'
1500 GALS		375	28	125' x 3'	75' x 3'	63' x 3'	54' x 3'	375	30'
<b>SANDY LOAM/ SANDY CLAY</b>									
750 GALS	40	300	22	100' x 3'	60' x 3'	50' x 3'	43' x 3'	300	24'
1000 GALS		400	30	133' x 3'	80' x 3'	66' x 3'	57' x 3'	400	32'
1200 GALS		480	36	160' x 3'	96' x 3'	80' x 3'	69' x 3'	480	38'
1500 GALS		600	45	200' x 3'	120' x 3'	100' x 3'	80' x 3'	600	48'
<b>CLAY SOIL (LARGE SAND/GRAVEL FRACTION)</b>									
750 GALS	90	675	50	225' x 3'	135' x 3'	112' x 3'	96' x 3'	675	54'
1000 GALS		900	67	300' x 3'	180' x 3'	150' x 3'	129' x 3'	900	72'
1200 GALS		1080	80	360' x 3'	216' x 3'	180' x 3'	154' x 3'	1080	86'
1500 GALS		1350	100	450' x 3'	270' x 3'	225' x 3'	193' x 3'	1350	108'
<b>CLAY SOIL (SMALL SAND/GRAVEL FRACTION)</b>									
750 GALS	120	900	67	300' x 3'	180' x 3'	150' x 3'	129' x 3'	900	72'
1000 GALS		1200	89	400' x 3'	240' x 3'	200' x 3'	172' x 3'	1200	96'
1200 GALS		1440	107	480' x 3'	288' x 3'	240' x 3'	206' x 3'	1440	115'
1500 GALS		1800	134	600' x 3'	360' x 3'	300' x 3'	258' x 3'	1800	144'

\*\* For infiltrator/chamber trenches: the infiltrative surface area allowed has a default amount of five (5) square feet per linear foot of trench. Infiltrators must be IAPMO (PS 63) approved and are sized with a 1.0 multiplier, based on the required design square footage.



**SEPTIC DISPERSAL AREA – REQUIREMENTS**

**Minimum absorptive area: 150 square feet**  
**Shall be located in areas with < 30% slopes**  
**Minimum filter material (gravel) diameter: ¾ inch**  
**Maximum filter material (gravel) diameter: 2.5 inches**  
**Dosing pump may be required for fields with total trench lengths exceeding 500 linear feet**



- DISPOSAL FIELDS SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED AS FOLLOWS:
- Minimum number of drain lines per field ..... 1
  - Maximum length of each line ..... 100 feet
  - Minimum bottom width of trench ..... 18 inches
  - Maximum bottom width of trench ..... 36 inches
  - Minimum spacing of lines center to center ..... 6 feet
  - Minimum depth of earth cover over lines ..... 12 inches
  - Preferred depth of cover of lines ..... 18 inches
  - Maximum grade of lines ..... 3 inches per 100 feet
  - Minimum grade of lines ..... level
  - Minimum filter material under drain lines ..... 12 inches
  - Minimum filter material over drain lines ..... 2 inches
  - Minimum spacing between trenches or leaching bed shall .....  
 be four (4) feet plus two (2) feet for each additional .....  
 foot of depth in excess of one (1) foot below the .....  
 bottom of the drain lines .....
  - Minimum square feet of trench bottom for leach field .....  
 ..... 150 square feet

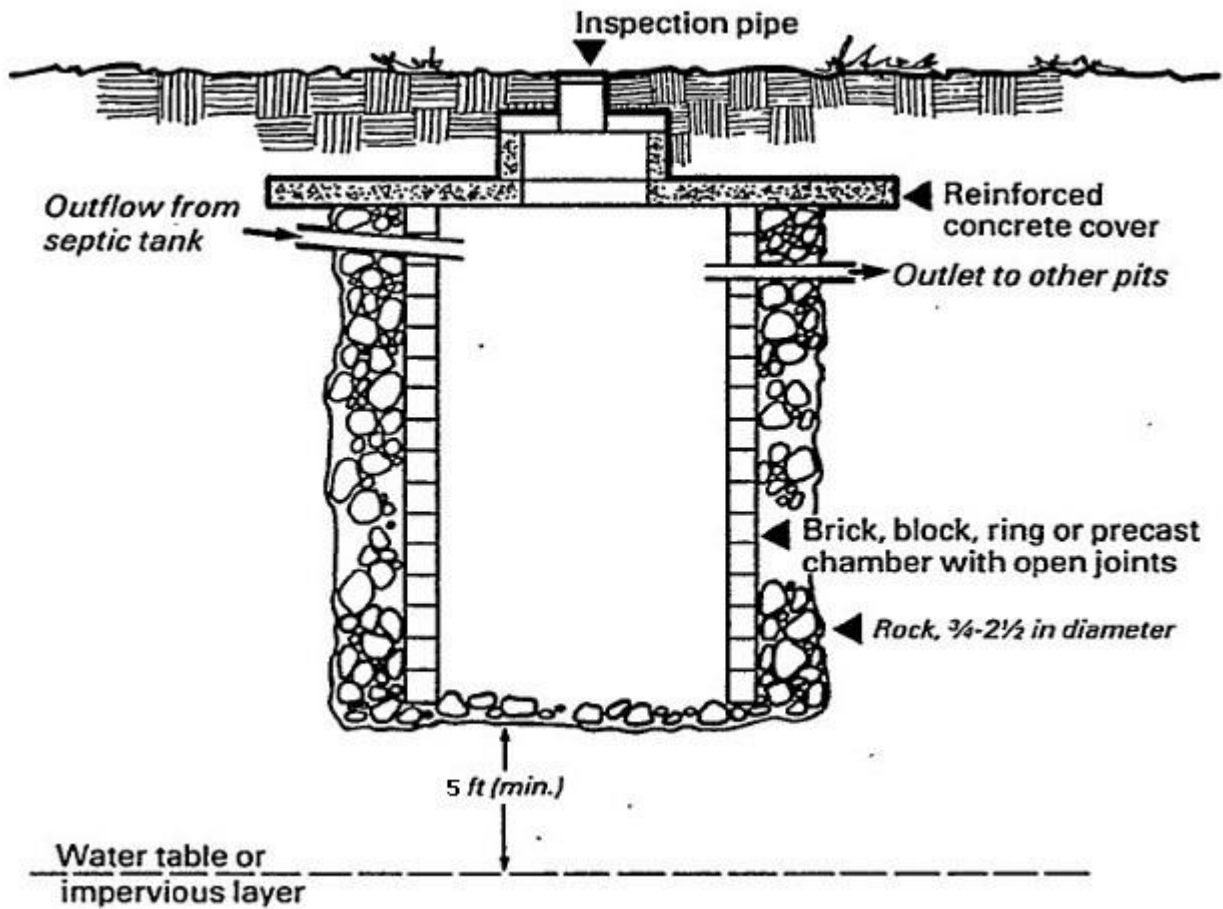
When perforated pipe is used, it shall be laid level with the end of the line capped.

Connections between a septic tank and a distribution box, or between a distribution box and drainfield, shall be laid with approved watertight joints on natural ground or compacted fill.



### SEEPAGE PITS

- ✓ Minimum pit width: 3 feet      ↔      ✓ Maximum pit width: 5 feet
- ✓ Minimum depth of pit cover: 18 inches (below grade)      ↔      ✓ Maximum depth of pit cover: 4 feet
- ✓ Minimum pit depth/sidewall: 10 feet, below inlet



(Refer to the Tulare County Local Agency Management Program, for more information)