



MINIMUM HORIZONTAL SETBACK REQUIREMENTS

When conducting the Site Evaluation the System Designer should take into consideration the minimum setback distances from Onsite Wastewater System components to natural land features, structures and utilities in accordance with the following criteria:

- a. **County Requirements.** The Onsite Wastewater System design and installation shall meet the minimum horizontal setback distances provided in the table below, as applicable.
- b. **California Plumbing Code:** The Onsite Wastewater System design and installation shall also meet the minimum setback distances for building sewer and sanitary drainage provided in the California Plumbing Code, as applicable.

Minimum Required Setback Distances for OWTS			
Site Feature	Septic Tank	Dispersal Field	Seepage Pit
Non-Public Water Supply Wells and Springs	100 feet	100 feet ¹	150 feet ¹
Public Water Supply Wells and Springs	100 feet ³	150 feet ^{1, 2, 3, 10}	150 feet ^{1, 2, 3, 10}
Property line adjoining private property (with domestic well)	25 feet	50 feet	75 feet
Property line adjoining private property (with municipal water)	5 feet	5 feet	75 feet
Watercourses: -General	100 feet ^{2, 10}	100 feet ^{2, 10}	150 feet ^{2, 10}
-Between 1,200 to 2,500 feet from a Public Water System intake	100 feet	200 feet	200 feet
-Within 1,200 feet from a Public Water System intake	100 feet	400 feet	400 feet
Drainage way/swale, ephemeral streams, creeks, unlined irrigation ditch or canal, and other flowing or surface bodies of water	100 feet ⁴	100 feet ⁴	150 feet ⁴
Lakes, ponds, stormwater/recharge basins, and other surface water bodies	100 feet	200 feet	200 feet
Lined ditches, lined canals, lined watertight culverts	15 feet	15 feet	15 feet
Residential on-site stormwater basins	15 feet	15 feet	15 feet
Seepage Pits ⁴	5 feet	5 feet	12 feet
Dispersal field ⁴	5 feet	4 feet ⁶	5 feet
Cuts or steep embankments (from top of cut)	10 feet	4xh ^{7, 8}	4xh ^{7, 8}
Steep slopes (from break of slope)	10 feet	4xh ^{7, 8}	4xh ^{7, 8}
Unstable Land Mass ⁹	100 feet	100 feet	100 feet



TULARE COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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1. Drainage piping shall clear domestic water supply wells by not less than 50 feet. This distance shall be permitted to be reduced to not less than 25 feet where the drainage piping is constructed of materials approved for use within a building.
2. Where the effluent dispersal system is within 1,200 feet from a public water systems' surface water intake point, within the catchment of the drainage, and located such that it may impact water quality at the intake point such as upstream of the intake point for flowing water bodies, the dispersal system shall be no less than 400 feet from the high-water mark of the reservoir, lake or flowing water body. Where the effluent dispersal system is located more than 1,200 but less than 2,500 feet from a public water systems' surface water intake point, the dispersal system shall be no less than 200 feet from the high-water mark of the reservoir, lake, or flowing water body.
3. The horizontal separation distances are generally considered adequate where a significant layer of unsaturated, unconsolidated sediment less permeable than sand is encountered between ground surface and groundwater. These distances are based on present knowledge and past experience. Local conditions may require greater separation distances to ensure groundwater quality protection.
4. These minimum clear horizontal distances shall also apply between dispersal fields, seepage pits, and the mean high-tide line.
5. Where dispersal fields, seepage pits, or both are installed on sloping ground, the minimum horizontal distance between any part of the leaching system and ground surface shall be 15 feet.
6. Plus 2 feet for each additional 1 foot of depth in excess of 1 foot below the bottom of the drain line.
7. h equals the height of the cut or embankment, in feet. The required setback distance shall not be less than 25 feet nor more than 100 feet.
8. Steep slope is considered to be land with a slope of >30% and distinctly steeper (at least 20% steeper) than the slope of the adjacent tank or dispersal field area.
9. Unstable land mass or any areas subject to earth slides identified by a registered engineer or registered geologist; other setback distance are allowed, if recommended by a geotechnical report prepared by a qualified professional.
10. Where the dispersal system is greater than 20' in depth, and less than 600' from public water supply well, then the setback must be greater than the distance for two-year travel time of microbiological contaminants, as determined by qualified professional. In no case, shall the setback be less than 200'.