



Figure 1

Areas where potential groundwater pollution may restrict location of absorption field.

Table 1 shows the minimum setback distances that must be observed for septic tanks and absorption fields. On small or restrictive lots, a good way to locate the site for the system is to make a scale drawing of the site, marking out areas that are off-limits according to Table 1 and leaving the remaining open areas as potential system locations. To ensure adequate room for the eventual replacement of the new or existing septic system, identify a location for an alternate system.

Table 1

Setback distances for sewage tanks and disposal areas

Minimum distance in feet from:	Sewage tanks ¹	Absorption fields ²
Private water supply well ³	50	100
Public water supply well	300	300
Cistern	25	25
Spring	50	100
Classified stream, lake or impoundment ⁴	50	50
Stream or open ditch ⁵	25	25
Property lines	10	10 ⁶

Minimum distance in feet from:	Sewage tanks¹	Absorption fields²
Building foundation	5	15
Basement	15	25
Swimming pool	15	15
Water line under pressure	10	10
Suction water line	50	100
Upslope interceptor drains		10
Down-slope interceptor drains		25
Top of slope of embankments or cuts of 2 feet or more vertical height		20
Edge of surficial sinkholes	50	100
Other soil absorption system except repair area		20

¹Includes sewage tanks, intermittent sand filters and dosing chambers.

²Includes all systems (sand filter, wetland and the like), except wastewater stabilization lagoons.

³Unplugged abandoned wells, or wells with less than 80 feet of casing depth shall have 150-foot minimum setback distance from all above.

⁴A classified stream is any stream that maintains permanent flow or permanent pools during drought periods and supports aquatic life.

⁵Sewage tanks and soil absorption systems should never be located in the drainage area of a sinkhole.

⁶Recommend 25 feet of downslope property line initially, but repair may be allowed to 10 feet of downslope property line.