

## Southeastern Idaho Public Health

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Pocatello, ID 83201  
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Montpelier, ID 83254  
(208) 847-3000

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Blackfoot, ID 83221  
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Butte County  
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Arco, ID 83213  
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Caribou County  
55 E 1st S.  
Soda Springs, ID 83276  
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Franklin County  
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Preston, ID 83263  
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Oneida County  
175 S. 300 E  
Malad, ID 83252  
(208) 766-4764

Power County  
590 1/2 Gifford  
American Falls, ID 83211  
(208) 226-5096



## Applying for a Septic Permit

Septic system applications may be obtained at any Southeastern District Health Department office or online at [www.sdhdidaho.gov](http://www.sdhdidaho.gov).

A warranty deed for the property showing correct legal description and owner as well as the appropriate fee must accompany completed applications that are submitted. Incomplete applications will be delayed until all information is submitted.

The applicant is responsible for providing test hole(s) for SDHD to review. In some cases soils review cannot take place in the field and may have to take place in SDHD offices. SDHD will make a decision whether to issue or deny a permit within three (3) working days.

If an area is approved for a septic system, the drainfield must be placed within 50 feet of the test hole.

**Note: The information in this brochure is only a brief description of the requirements of an subsurface sewage disposal system, and is no way a complete or comprehensive summary of the Technical Guidance Manual (TGM). All rules and regulations and other sections of the TGM must be met in order for approval of the system to be given.**

[www.siphidaho.org](http://www.siphidaho.org)

March 2012

## Overview of Septic Requirements and Siting of Onsite Systems

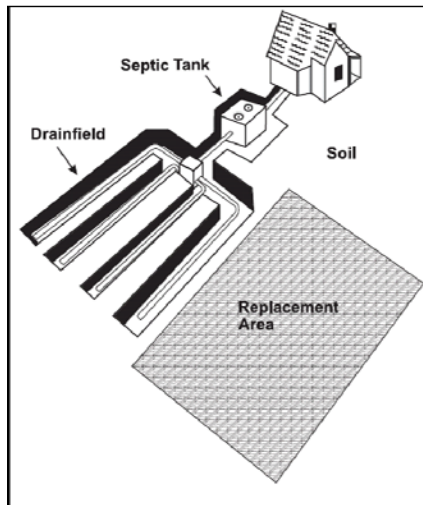


# Introduction

A typical septic system has two components: a septic tank and a drainfield. The purpose of this brochure is to give homeowners some insight on septic system requirements and considerations when siting a septic system.

## Septic Tank

The septic tank's primary purpose is to separate solids from liquids. The septic tank also acts as a storage vessel for solids and allows the wastewater (effluent) to exit through the outlet baffle to the drainfield.

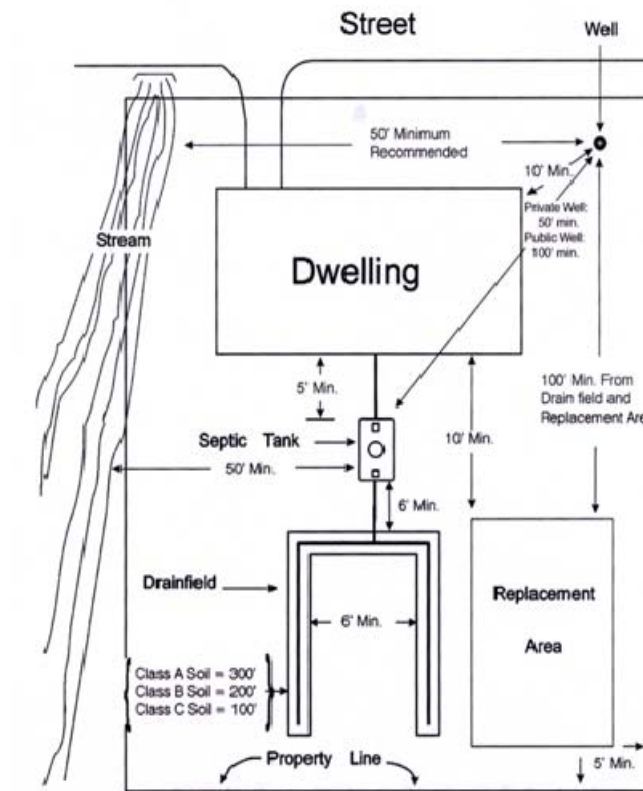


## Drainfield

The drainfield consists of a series of underground pipes or domes where the effluent is distributed and absorbed by the soil. The soil acts as a natural buffer and filters out many harmful bacteria, viruses, and excessive nutrients; effectively treating the wastewater before it reaches groundwater.

## Septic System Setbacks (Minimum Distances)

- Drainfield 50 feet from all temporary surface water (ditches, canals)
- Drainfield 100, 200, or 300 feet from surface water (stream, lakes, or rivers). Setback dependent on soil type
- Drainfield 100 feet from all wells
- Drainfield 10 feet from foundation or 20 feet from basement
- Drainfield 5 feet from property lines
- Septic tank 50 feet from surface water
- Septic tank 50 feet from all wells
- Septic tank 5 feet from foundation
- Septic tank and drainfield 6 feet apart
- Designated replacement area for drainfield that meets all setback distances



## DRAINFIELD SITING CONSIDERATIONS

Avoid areas where tree roots may grow toward and impact the drainfield

Avoid areas where vehicles may compact the soil (roads, driveways, parking areas, etc)

Avoid low lying areas (draws, ravines) where runoff or storm water drains or areas where water may pond temporarily

Avoid steep slopes; slopes less than 20% are preferred

Drainfield may not be placed in fill. Fill material has to sit for a period of time sufficient to allow for natural settling. Time of settling depends on depth of fill and whether the fill will be irrigated or not. In some cases it can take 5 to 10 years for natural settling

In areas where shallow groundwater is present during some time of the year, monitoring of the groundwater may be required in order to determine the high seasonal and high normal groundwater levels. Homeowner is responsible for monitoring the groundwater levels

Test holes are required on all lots in order to evaluate soil characteristics. More than one test hole may be required on a lot in order to identify suitable soils or locations for the drainfield