

**Jackson County Health Department
Guidelines for Interpreting Sanitary Code**

Occasionally questions arise regarding interpretation of sanitary code language. When needed to help clarify the language or set policy on how certain situations will be handled, guideline statements will be developed and added to this list. The related section(s) of the code, plus the effective date will be listed after each statement.

1. **The square feet of trench bottom under a main header will be calculated as part of the absorption system.** The header trench must be constructed the same as the laterals or footer, except that the header must be solid pipe. The area under a split header will not be included. Section 302.10. (3/1/93)
2. On a replacement system for an existing dwelling, the septic tank capacity will not normally need to be upgraded to the minimum required capacity unless the existing tank has less than 1000 gallons capacity or is: made of metal, in poor condition, inadequately isolated from wells, surface water, foundation or has a similar problem that would make a new tank necessary. Sections 301.20 and 302.3. (9/20/93)
3. Drywells are an option for a new home, if there is inadequate room for a bed or trench system along with any required reserve area. Section 301.12D. (3/1/93)
4. When determining if there is the 2.0 feet of naturally occurring soil needed to meet minimum site criteria, 1 foot of topsoil may be included. Section 301.12H. (3/1/93)
5. The sanitary code has sections that allow the Health Officer to grant variances for existing dwellings. This leaves the granting of some variances for new structures to the Sanitary Code Board of Appeals.

"New structures" shall be defined as rebuilding after the existing structure is over 50% voluntarily demolished or removed. Structures rebuilt within one year after being damaged by fire or casualty shall be considered existing.

Occasionally a proposal is made to connect a new structure to an existing well and/or sewage system that was used for a previous structure. Approval to connect to the existing systems will be considered on a case by case basis. Sections 301.12-13 & 301.20. (9/20/93)

Applicants must apply for well and septic permits. The Sanitarian will review the site along with the existing well and septic systems that are proposed for use. The permits will then be issued:

- A. approving use of existing well or septic system or
- B. approving installation of new well or septic system or
- C. approving modifications to existing well/septic system or
- D. Deny permits and refer to Board of Appeals.

tank and all drywells to equally distribute the septic tank effluent or the dry wells must be connected in series. A distribution box, if used, shall be connected individually to each drywell with pipe of watertight construction at least four (4) inches in diameter and sloped at least one-eighth (1/8) inch per foot.

Final cover on drywells shall be a minimum of four (4) inches and a maximum of two (2) feet. When a variance is granted to allow the top of a drywell to be buried more than two (2) feet below the finished grade, manholes shall be built up to within two (2) feet of the finished grade. (See 302.6C)

302.8 Required Minimum Isolation Distance in Feet for Single and Two Family Dwellings

<u>From</u>	<u>To Septic Tank</u>	<u>To Absorption System</u>	<u>To Sewer Line</u>
Well	50	50	10
Property Line	5	5	10
Road Right-of-Way	5	5	-
Foundation	10	15	-
Surface Water	25	*50	10
Pressurized Water Line	10	10	
Ravine, Bank or Dropoff	5	15	5
Swimming Pool	10	10	10
Drain**	25	*50	10
Buried Utilities	5	5	-

*For lots of record existing prior to December 3, 1992 the system must be isolated as close to fifty (50) feet as possible, with a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet required.

** No part of a sewage disposal system shall be placed in a drain right of way without approval of the person or municipality responsible for the drain.