

Questions from/since 22 July '19 meeting

SEPTIC

- What size of tank is required for residential (Table in sanitary code)? How is this determined (number of bedrooms or ___)? The minimum size of septic tank is 1000 gallons and will be adequate for a 1-3 bedroom home with a garbage disposal. Adding a bedroom or a garbage disposal increases the capacity by 500 each. Meaning a 4 bedroom home with a garbage disposal would need two 1000 gallon tanks.

SEPTIC TANK SIZES FOR SINGLE AND TWO FAMILY DWELLINGS

Total Number of Bedrooms (Flow in Gallons Per Day)	Minimum Septic Tank Capacity (Without Garbage Grinder) (Gallons)	Minimum Septic Tank Capacity (With Garbage Grinder) (Gallons)
0-3 (600 or less)	1000	* 1500
4 (601 - 800)	* 1500	* 2000
5 (801 and greater) or more	* 2000 for 5 bedrooms, plus 250 for each bedroom over 5	* 2500 for 5 bedrooms, plus 250 for each bedroom over 5

- What size of drain field is required for residential properties (Is there a table or calculation in sanitary code)? What is minimum size? The size of the absorption area (drain field is one type of system) is based on the soil structure related to soil loading rates. The minimum absorption area is 600 Square Feet sized for a 1-3 bedroom home that has a soil structure of Sand, Gravel or Loamy Sand.

Type of Soil	Soil Loading Rate (Gallons Per Day Per Square Feet)	Size of Tile Trench (Square Feet Per Bedroom)
Sand, Gravel or Loamy Sand	1.0	200
Sandy Loam	0.80	250
Loam	0.67	300
Sandy or Silty Clay Loam	0.57	350
Clay Loam, Clay and Silt	--	Unacceptable
Mottled Silt, Mottled Clay, Marl	--	Unacceptable

- Are rental units considered residential or commercial? How are the tank and drain field sizes determined for these? Duplexes are covered under our Sanitary Code and are sized the same as a residential home. Anything larger would be sized per the State of Michigan Criteria for Subsurface Sewage Disposal.

- How are schools, churches, libraries covered in sanitary code (commercial or residential or ___)? Commercial
- What size tank and drain fields are required for commercial and what is this based on (water consumption? Volume from process at business? Type of waste stream? Or ___?) Volume and type of waste stream
- What are the options for residences with small lot size (what lot size is “small” relative to septic system install or replacement)? Tank and/or drain field limits? Placement and lot line considerations? What limits on septic use would apply to small lots? It is difficult to define what is a small lot, however we need room to install a replacement system that is isolated from water lines, lot lines, basement walls and the existing septic system. Any other items such as a below ground pool would impact the site availability.
- What conditions require a “mound” type septic system? Seasonally high water table is the condition that requires a mounded system in order to maintain 4 feet from the bottom of the absorption system to the high water table.
- Where does soil from septic replacement go for disposal? Landfill
- Where are grey-water disposal systems allowed and what are specifications and requirements? Grey water disposal systems are not allowed in Kalamazoo County. All grey water must go through a functioning septic tank and absorption system.