

Monterey County Code, Chapter 15.20

Table A - Location of Septic Tank System

(OWTS Setbacks)

Minimum Horizontal Distance Required From:		Septic Tank	Leach Field	Seepage Pit
1.	Building, Structure, or Mobile Home	5 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.
2.	Property Line	10 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.
3.	Domestic Water Supplies	100 ft.	100 ft.	150 ft.
4.	Domestic Water Line (See also 15.20.070 A(1))	10 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.
5.	Bodies of Water 1 (e.g. ocean, lakes, and ponds etc.)	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.
6.	Watercourse: measured from the high water mark. [See 15.20.070 A(2)]	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.
7.	Reservoir Spillway Elevation	100 ft.	200 ft.	200 ft.
8.	Springs, natural or any part of man-made spring	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.
9.	Large trees (trunk 5 in. or more in diameter, 2 ft. from ground level)	10 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.
10.	Downhill embankment ⁴ (manmade or natural)	50 ft. ^{2,4}	25 ft. ^{3,4}	50 ft. ^{2,4}
11.	In ground Swimming Pools/Spas	25 ft.	25 ft. ⁴	25 ft. ⁴
12.	Curtain Drains			
	Up slope		20 ft.	20 ft.
	Down slope		50 ft.	50 ft.

¹ Those bodies of water not used as reservoirs as defined.

² Measured from sidewall of trench or pit walls. If soils or formations contain continuous cracks or fissures, then minimum setback must be one hundred (100) feet.

³ Measured from end wall of trench. If soils or formations contain continuous cracks or fissures, then minimum setback must be one hundred (100) feet. This setback distance shall be used for pool/spas.

⁴ These distances may be reduced if the effective trench depth or pit wall is at a lower elevation than the bottom elevation of the downhill embankment. However the distances cannot be reduced to less than ten (10) feet for structures (e.g. underground pool/spas, basements etc.).

⁵ When a curtain drain is an integral part of the wastewater disposal system design, so as to protect the wastewater disposal system either in part or in whole from intrusion of subsurface water, then the piping in the curtain drain must conform to Section 15.20.070F6.

The following setbacks are not explicitly addressed in County Code; however, are applied by Staff based on State regulations or best management practices:

Minimum Horizontal Distance Required From:		Septic Tank	Leach Field	Seepage Pit
Onsite Storm Water Retention				
	Up slope		20 ft.	20 ft.
	Down slope		50 ft.	50 ft.
Food Crops (per Leafy Green Food Safety Guidelines)			30'	30'
Water Lines				
Gas Lines		3'	3'	3'

Water Main/Lateral Setbacks from Wastewater Lines

- Important Facts:** 1) Water line always crosses **ABOVE** (never under) a wastewater pipeline
 2) Setbacks distances are measured from outside of each pipe, not center to center

	Circumstance	Water Main (Public Service)*		Water Lateral (Private Service)	
		Setback	Regulation(s)	Setback	Regulation(s)
SEWER	Sewer Main or Lateral (Untreated Sewage Pipeline)	10' Horizontal and water line 1' Vertical separation only applies if horizontal setback cannot be maintained	Title 22, CCR: Section 64572.a	Water or sewer line constructed of materials unsuitable for use in buildings: Water line 1' above and 1' horizontally separated from unperforated disposal line	2011 California Plumbing Code, Section 609.2
	Untreated Sewage Pipeline Crosses Below Water Line	Water main no less than 45° to and 1' above sewage pipeline; no joints in water main within 8' of crossing over the sewage pipe	Title 22, CCR: Section 64572.d		
	Water Lines Crosses Below an Untreated Sewage Pipeline	not permissible		not permissible	
OWTS	OWTS Tank	25' Horizontal	Title 22, CCR: Section 64572.f	10' Horizontal	MCC 15.20.070: Table A
	OWTS Disposal Field (Parallel to water line)	25' Horizontal	Title 22, CCR: Section 64572.f	10' Horizontal	MCC 15.20.070: Table A
	OWTS Disposal Field Crosses Below Water Line (Perpendicular to water line)			Water line 1' above and no joints in water line within 8' of the disposal field pipeline (double-sleeve if necessary)	MCC 15.20.070.A1
	OWTS Unperforated Pipe (Tight Line)	10' Horizontal and water line 1' Vertical separation only applies if horizontal setback cannot be maintained	Title 22, CCR: Section 64572.a	Water or OWTS line constructed of materials unsuitable for use in buildings: Water line 1' above and 1' horizontally separated from unperforated disposal line	2011 California Plumbing Code, Section 609.2
Water and OWTS line constructed of materials for use in buildings: OK to be laid in same trench without separation requirements					