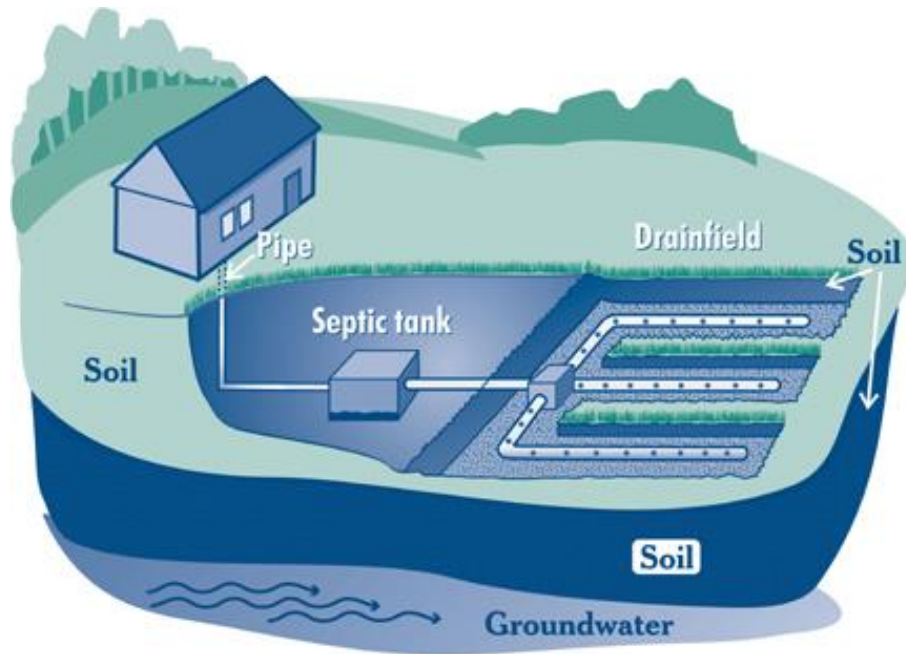


Jackson County Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Program



Septic systems protect human health and the environment by safely recycling wastewater back into the environment.

Septic System Basics

Over 25% of Minnesota households use subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS) to treat their wastewater. While septic systems are designed and installed by licensed professionals to meet site specific requirements, homeowners are responsible for the operation and maintenance of their septic system. As a homeowner, you are also required to disclose the compliance status of the system at the time of a property sale and to upgrade your SSTS if you are planning to add a bedroom or bath to your home.

System Types

- Mound (commonly used in Jackson County)
- At-grade
- Below-grade (trenches)

Compliance Criteria

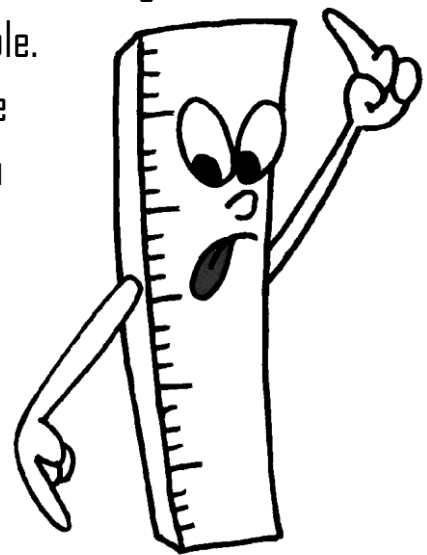
Both new and existing systems must meet the minimum requirements of Minnesota Rules Chapters 7080 through 7083. Compliant systems must have:

- A Watertight Tank
- Proper separation from seasonal high water table or bedrock (most common compliance issue in Jackson County).
- No sewage backup or surface discharge.

Separation Above Periodically Saturated Soil

The depth to which your soil is seasonally saturated determines the type of system you will need (mound, at-grade, or trenches). Scientific sewage research has shown that three feet of undisturbed soil is required to effectively remove sewage and other

contaminates before treated water enters the water table. As a result, systems installed after March 31, 1996 are required to have three feet of vertical separation between the bottom of the system and periodically saturated soil or bedrock (limiting conditions). Systems that were installed before April 1, 1996 are only required to have two feet of separation in order to be considered compliant. These regulations help protect the groundwater from becoming contaminated with sewage.



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Determining Seasonally Saturated Soil Conditions

Saturated soil conditions are also known as groundwater and the water table.

Wet treatment areas fail to move

effluent through the soil and limit the treatment of sewage. The depth of the seasonal high water is determined by the presence of redoximorphic features. These features are the red and gray colors found in soils as a result of the oxidation of minerals. The color changes occur due to the periodic saturated nature of the soils found at the upper level of the water table.



Red (concentrations) and gray (depletions) soil colors indicating the location of the seasonal high water table.



Soil bucket augers used to determine the depth of the seasonal high water table.

Important Setback Requirements

Shore land Setbacks

- Streams, Lakes and other water bodies—50, 75, 100, 150 feet (depending on classification)

Septic Tank

- Property Lines—10 feet
- Buried pipe distributing water under pressure—10 feet
- Building—10 feet
- Water supply wells—50 feet

Drain field

- Shallow Well (<50 ft. of casing)—100 feet
- Water Supply Well—50 feet
- Building—20 feet
- Property Lines—10 feet
- Buried pipe distributing water under pressure—10 feet

