

**ARTICLE XXIV
SEPTIC SYSTEMS**

175-138. Applicability.

The standards of this article shall apply to the installation of a septic system or other on-site sewage disposal system on a lot created after the effective date of this article. These standards shall not apply to existing vacant lots of record, lots in a subdivision approved prior to the effective date of this article, or the replacement of a septic system on an existing lot.

175-139. Suitability of the Location of the Leaching Field.

The leach field or other component of the system designed to infiltrate the leachate into the ground shall be located within a rectangular area of suitable soils having a contiguous area of not less than four thousand (4000) square feet. No portion of the required suitable area shall be located within one hundred twenty-five (125) feet of very poorly or poorly drained soils or a water body. To demonstrate the suitability of the area, the applicant shall dig a minimum of two (2) satisfactory test pits within the suitable area. The Town's independent soil scientist shall observe the digging of the pits and may require that additional pits be dug to demonstrate the suitability of the entire area. All test pits that are dug shall be recorded and the results of all test pits provided to the Town whether they are satisfactory or not.

The satisfactory test pits shall be located at least fifty (50) feet from any other satisfactory test pit. To be satisfactory, a test pit shall comply with the following criteria:

- a. The minimum depth to the estimated seasonal high water table shall be twenty-four (24) inches, and
- b. The minimum depth to ledge shall be four (4) feet.

Innovative systems approved by the NH Department of Environmental Services that provide a higher level of treatment may be installed on sites that cannot meet all of the above standards if the Zoning Board of Adjustment grants a Special Exception and a report is provided to the Code Enforcement Officer every two years by a certified septic system evaluator.

175-140. Duties of the Code Enforcement Officer.

The Town's Code Enforcement Officer shall be responsible for the oversight of the installation of septic systems and shall:

- a. Review the test pit information, suitability of the proposed leach field location, and design of the proposed septic system for conformance with the Town's requirements prior to submitting the application to the state. If the proposed system does not conform to the Town's requirements, the Code Enforcement Officer shall reject the application and notify the applicant of that decision in writing setting forth the reasons for the denial.
- b. Inspect the installation of the system to see that it conforms to the approved location and design.
- c. Retain an independent soil scientist to oversee the digging of the test pits and to verify the accuracy of the test pit data.

175-141. Duties of the Independent Soil Scientist.

The independent soil scientist shall be retained by the Town and shall be responsible to the Code Enforcement Officer. The soil scientist shall be responsible for observing the digging of the test pits and the recording of the information to determine if the test pit is "satisfactory". The soil scientist shall review the test pit logs and other documentation to verify that they accurately portray the conditions on the site. In addition, the soil scientist may require that additional test pits be dug to demonstrate that the required area is suitable.

175-142. Review Fee.

Prior to the scheduling of the digging of any test pits, the applicant shall pay a review fee to the Town to cover the cost of the services of the independent soils scientist. The amount of the fee shall be equal to the Town's actual cost for the services of the soil scientist. The Code Enforcement officer shall collect a deposit prior to the scheduling of any test pit observations. The amount of the deposit shall be 125% of the estimated cost of the services. Any unused balance of the deposit shall be returned to the applicant within thirty (30) days of the date of application for a permit to install the septic system.

175-143. Reserved.