

Monterey County Code, Chapter 15.20

Table 3. Minimum Horizontal Setback Distances for OWTS

Setback Element	Septic Tank (feet)	Dispersal Field (feet)
1. Wells: Potable, Irrigation, Monitoring, Cathodic Protection	100 ^d	100 ^a
2. Wells: Geothermal	50	50
3. Domestic Water Supplies (that do not serve a public water system)	100 ^d	100 ^a
4. Public Water System Supply Wells (Existing)		
Where the dispersal system is less than or equal to 10 feet deep	100 ^d	150
Where the dispersal system is deeper than 10 feet and supplemental treatment has been incorporated	100 ^d	150 ^e
5. Public Water Systems' Surface Water Intake		
Where the effluent dispersal system is less than 1,200 feet from a public water systems' surface water intake, within the catchment of the drainage, and located such that it may impact water quality at the intake point such as upstream of the intake point for flowing water bodies (measured from high water mark of the reservoir, lake or flowing water body)	100 ^d	400
Where the effluent dispersal system is more than 1,200 feet but less than 2500 feet from a public water systems' surface water intake, within the catchment of the drainage, and located such that it may impact water quality at the intake point such as upstream of the intake point for flowing water bodies (measured from high water mark of the reservoir, lake or flowing water body)	100 ^d	200
6. Bodies of Water: Vernal Pools, Wetlands, Lakes, Ponds or other Surface Water Bodies)	100 ^d	200
7. Watercourse: measured from the high-water mark	100	100
8. Springs, natural or any part of man-made spring	100	100 ^a
9. Drainageway: measured from edge of flow path		
Up slope (when elevation of the bottom of the drainage way is at or above the elevation of the effluent distribution pipe)	25	25
Down slope (when elevation of the bottom of the drainage is below the elevation of the effluent distribution pipe)	25	50
10. Curtain Drains		
Up slope	<u>10</u>	<u>Requires Site Specific Engineering</u>
Down slope	10	50
11. Domestic Water Line	10	10

12. Building, Structure, or Mobile Home	5	10
13. Property Line	5	10
14. Large trees (when diameter of trunk is greater than or equal to 5 inches, measured 2 feet from ground level)	10	10
15. Downhill Embankment with change in slope greater than 20% or Cut Slope	10	$4 \times H^{bc}$
16. Steep slopes >50 percent (measured from the break of the slope)		
Height of steep slope is less than 12 feet	10	25
Height of steep slope is greater than or equal to 12 feet	10	50
17. In ground Swimming Pools/Spas		
Up slope (when the elevation of the bottom of the pool or spa is at or above the elevation of the OWTS component)	10	10
Down slope	10	25
18. Unstable Land Mass or Areas Subject to Landslides	100 ^c	100 ^c

^a The required setback distance between a proposed well and existing seepage pits without supplemental treatment shall not be less than 150 feet.

^b H equals the height of cut or embankment, in feet. The required setback distance shall not be more than 50 feet, measured from the distribution pipe.

^c This distance may be reduced by up to 50% at the discretion of the Director if supported by recommendations in a geotechnical report and approved by EHB

^d All new or replacement septic tanks, pump tanks and supplemental treatment system tanks will be tested and confirmed to be watertight prior to final inspection; therefore, a 100 feet horizontal setback is adequate to protect public water supply wells, bodies of water and public water system intake points from contamination.

^e A disinfection unit shall be incorporated into the alternative OWTS with supplemental treatment when a variance is required for a replacement OWTS and this horizontal setback cannot be met.

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					