



Your Partner for a Healthy Community
Inclusion Through Diversity

Details and Specifications #1 Separation Distances

Frank Kruppa
Public Health Director
55 Brown Road
Ithaca, NY 14850-1247

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION
www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health/eh
email: tceh@tompkins-co.org

Ph: (607) 274-6688
Fx: (607) 274-6695

Separation Distances from OWTS Components (FT)

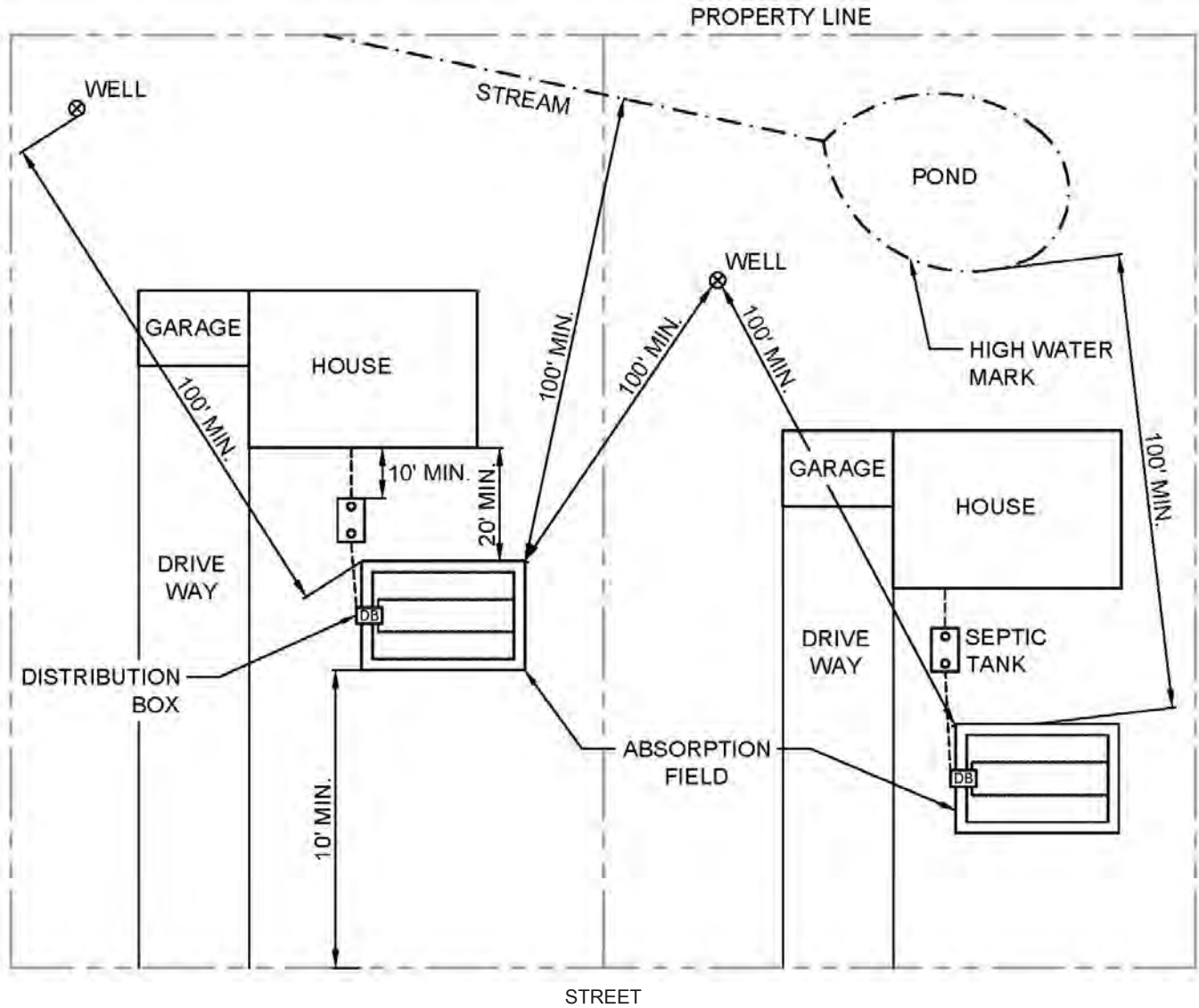
System Component	Well or Suction Line (e)(g)	Stream, Lake, Watercourse or Wetland (b)	Dwelling	Property Line
House Sewer (watertight joints)	25' cast iron; 50' otherwise	25'	3'	10'
Septic Tank, Pump Chamber or Enhanced Treatment Unit (ETU)	50'	50'	10'	10'
Effluent Line to Distribution Box	50'	50'	10'	10'
Distribution Box	100' (a)	100'	20'	10'
Absorption Field (c)(d)(e)(h)(i)	100' (a)	100'	20'	10'
Seepage Pit (d)(e)(i)	150' (a)	100'	20'	10'
Raised Absorption or Mound System (c)(d)(e)(i)	100' (a)	100'	20'	10'
Sandfilter (d)(e)(h)	100' (a)(f)	100' (f)	20'	10'
Shallow Trenches or DMATS* (e)(h)(i)	100' (a)	100'	20'	10'
Non-Waterborne System with offsite refuse disposal	50'	50'	20'	10'
Non-Waterborne System with onsite discharge	100' (a)	100'	20'	10'

*Downstream Modified Absorption Trench System

- (a) When a sewage treatment system is located updrain and in the general path of drainage to a well, the separation distance is 200 feet.
- (b) Mean high water mark.
- (c) If fill system, separation is measured from the toe of the fill.
- (d) Distances shall be measured from the edge of designated additional useable area.
- (e) Closest part of wastewater treatment system must be 10 feet from any water service line, 20 feet from any drainage ditch.
- (f) When sandfilters are designed to be watertight and collect all effluent, separation can be reduced to 50 feet.
- (g) The listed water well separation distance increases by 50% whenever aquifer water enters the water well at less than 50 feet below grade. If this cannot be achieved, then the greatest possible increase shall be provided with such additional measures as needed to prevent contamination.
- (h) Where a groundwater source is developed or anticipated to be developed within 500 feet of a sewage system, the vertical separation distance from the bottom of any trench or bed of that system to bedrock or fractured bedrock shall be at least 3 feet, except only 2 feet are required beneath a sandfilter and the gravel of a bed or mound following a sandfilter.
- (i) No parking areas, roads, driveways, structures, or impermeable surfaces shall be placed over, or within 10 feet uphill or side hill of, or 20 feet downhill of, a sewage system's soil absorption or fill areas.

Details and Specifications #1 Separation Distances

Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Separation Requirements:



* The listed water well separation distances from contaminant sources shall be increased by 50% whenever aquifer water enters the water well at less than 50-feet below grade. If a 50% increase cannot be achieved, then the greatest possible increase in separation distance shall be provided with such additional measures as needed to prevent contamination