

**INSTALLATION AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS  
FOR INDIVIDUAL ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL SYSTEMS**  
*Custer County, South Dakota*

Only persons certified by the state of South Dakota may install, repair or upgrade individual and small on-site wastewater disposal systems, commonly known as septic systems.

The minimum required lot size on which a septic system can be installed is one (1) acre.

A site evaluation by a representative of the Custer County Planning Department will generally be required prior to the installation of any small on-site wastewater disposal system. The purpose of the site evaluation is to determine the size and location of the proposed system. It will consist of the following:

1. Inspection of an 8' deep hole excavated in the area of the drainfield to determine soil depth and composition.
2. Evaluation of the results of a soil percolation (or perc) test to estimate the soil's saturated capacity to handle wastewater.

An *Individual Wastewater Disposal Permit* will **not** be issued until the percolation test results and general layout of the proposed system have been approved by the Planning Director or his representative.

A final inspection by a representative of the Planning Department is required after the septic system has been installed, but before any part of it has been covered. The purpose of this inspection is to ensure that the minimum standards established by the state and county for the construction and installation of small on-site wastewater systems have been met. Any system that does not meet the minimum standards will not be approved for use by the Planning Director.

If a newly installed system, upon final inspection, fails to meet the minimum state and county standards and an additional inspection is required, a *Failed Inspection Fee* will be assessed by the Planning Department.

Additions to an existing residential structure will require confirmation that the septic system is adequately sized to provide for the increased daily flow. If no records exist as to the size of the septic tank and drainfield, the property owner is required to have the septic tank pumped and inspected in order to determine the size of the tank and its general condition.

The issuance of a *Residential Building Permit* will be conditioned upon having met the requirements for an *Individual Wastewater Disposal Permit*.

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## Setback Requirements

The minimum distance required between any of the components of an on-site wastewater system and any property line is ten feet (10').

The minimum distance required between the septic tank and residence is ten feet (10'). The minimum distance required between the residence and absorption field is twenty feet (20').

If there is a well near the installation site and the depth of the water surface in the well is *less than* one-hundred feet (100') below the surface of the ground, the minimum separation distance required between the well and septic tank is seventy-five feet (75'); between the well and absorption field, the minimum separation distance required is one hundred fifty feet (150').

If the depth of the water surface of a well near the installation site is *more than* one-hundred feet (100') below the surface of the ground, the minimum separation distance required between the well and septic tank is fifty feet (50'); between the well and absorption field, the minimum separation distance required is one hundred feet (100').

The minimum distance required between the high water line of lakes, streams and reservoirs and a septic tank is fifty feet (50'); the minimum distance required for the absorption field is one hundred feet (100').

Minimum lot size = 1 acre

