



City of Malibu

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MALIBU MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 15.42 TABLE 15.42.030(E) MINIMUM HORIZONTAL SETBACK DISTANCES FOR OWTS (FEET)

Site Feature	Building Sewer	Septic Tank	Dispersal Trench or Bed	Seepage Pit
Buildings or structures ¹	2	5	8	8
Property line	Clear ²	5	5	8
Water supply wells				
Domestic	50 ³	150	150	150
Public	50 ³	150	150 ⁴	200 ⁴
Springs	-	50	100	100
Streams				
General (from top of bank)	50	100	100	150
Between 1,200'-2,500' of a public water intake ⁵	-	-	200	200
Within 1,200' of a public water system intake ⁵	-	-	400	400
Reservoirs				
General	50	100	200	200
Within 1,200' of a public water supply intake ⁵	-	-	400	400
Ocean waters (from mean high tide line) ⁶	-	50	100	100
Storm drainage pipe ⁷		5	50	50
Cut bank or embankment	-	10	4 x h ⁸	4 x h ⁸
Unstable land mass ⁹		100	100	100
Trees	-	10	-	10
Seepage pit	-	5	5	12
Dispersal trench or bed	-	5	4	5
Distribution box	-	-	5	5
Onsite domestic service line	1 ¹⁰	5	5	5
Pressure public water main	10 ¹¹	10	10	10

¹ Including porches and steps, whether covered or uncovered, breezeways, roofed porte cocheres, roofed patios, carports, covered walks, covered driveways, and similar structures and appurtenances.

² See California Plumbing Code, Section 321.3

³ Drainage piping shall clear domestic water supply wells by not less than 50 feet. This distance shall be permitted to be reduced to not less than 25 feet where the drainage piping is constructed of materials approved for use within a building.

⁴ 200' for trench or seepage pit 10' deep; 2-yr microbial travel study required for seepage pit >20' deep within 600 feet of public water well, per Statewide OWTS Policy Section 9.4.10.3.

⁵ For areas tributary to and upstream of water supply intake; setback distance measured from high water mark. Exceptions allowed per Statewide OWTS Policy, as follows: (a) for replacement OWTS, comply to the maximum extent practicable and incorporate supplemental treatment unless the Administrative Authority finds no impact or significant threat to water source; (b) for new OWTS on pre-existing lot of record (pre-May 13, 2013), comply to maximum extent practicable and incorporate supplemental treatment for pathogens per sections 10.8 and 10.10 of Statewide OWTS Policy as detailed in the Malibu OWTS Manual.

⁶ Systems that provide supplemental (secondary or tertiary) effluent treatment prior to discharge to the subsurface effluent dispersal systems are not required to meet these minimum horizontal setback requirements provided that no parts of the OWTS are, at any time, submerged or exposed to direct contact with these surface water bodies. In the case of beachfront developments and redevelopments, the OWTS shall, to the maximum extent feasible, be located at the farthest point from the Ocean on a parcel to avoid the construction of protective structures such as sea walls and shoreline protection devices.

⁷ Where publicly owned storm drainage pipes run across a property rendering it impossible to meet these minimum horizontal setback requirements, the effluent dispersal system is allowed to be located within 50 feet of the pipes provided that these pipes are positioned vertically higher than the bottom of the effluent dispersal system or the applicant demonstrates that the pipes are sealed so that there is no possibility for shallow groundwater to infiltrate the storm drain.

⁸ h equals the height of cut or embankment, in feet. Where a California Certified Engineering Geologist and/or Registered Geotechnical Engineer finds and states in writing that the stability of the fill or cut bank will not be compromised by a shorter horizontal separation and that a shorter horizontal separation will not result in sewage effluent daylighting, a shorter horizontal setback for the effluent dispersal system can be used per the said geologist's recommendation.

⁹ Setback distance may be reduced in accordance with recommendations provided in a geotechnical report prepared by a civil engineer or professional geologist and addressed in the OWTS Design Report and accompanying geotechnical report.

¹⁰ See California Plumbing Code, Section 720.0

¹¹ For parallel construction; for crossings, approval by the Health Department shall be required.

