

## Conventional Residential On-site Sewage Disposal System Design Criteria

A. Effective June 1, 2018, the following table shall be used to establish conventional residential on-site sewage disposal system designs. This table shall be utilized for both new construction and residential additions, remodels or other applicable home improvements. Please refer to Sections D-G for details.

Bedroom class	Design flow	Tank size
Under 2000 sq ft	350 gpd	1500 gal
2000-2999 sq ft	400 gpd	1500 gal
3000-3999 sq ft	450 gpd	1500 gal
4000-4999 sq ft	500 gpd	1500 gal
5000-5999 sq ft	600 gpd	2000 gal
>5999 sq ft	add 100 gpd per 1000 sq ft	2000 gal

B. This policy shall not apply to permit/site evaluation applications which have either previously been issued specifications or Sanitary Construction permit approval. If reconsideration of any previously issued Sanitary Construction permit or issued specification is desired utilizing this policy, this office will accommodate the request if a new application and appropriate fees are submitted.

- C. This policy does not apply to commercial development (e.g. Bed & Breakfasts, group homes, duplexes, etc). Commercial and combined uses will continue to use MDE commercial design flow guidance or adequate water meter readings.
- D. **Bedroom Class and Total Enclosed Living Space Determination.**
1. Total enclosed living space shall be assigned a bedroom class pursuant to section A of this policy and utilized to determine design flow.
  2. The square footage of total enclosed living space of a residential dwelling will be calculated using interior dimensions of a given space.
  3. Interior space without a floor (tall foyers, open to below spaces, etc.) shall be excluded when making determinations of total enclosed living space.
  4. Garages, decks, porches (not enclosed or conditioned) and mechanical spaces (exclusion not to exceed 150 square feet) shall be excluded when making determinations of total enclosed living space.
  5. Total enclosed living space will be calculated incorporating all above grade spaces with a floor not previously excluded above as well as basements (regardless of whether they are finished or not).
- E. The applicant for either a building permit or a site evaluation/percolation test shall provide accurate square footage amounts pursuant to this policy as part of the application. If requested, the applicant shall provide the floor plans and actual calculations for verification of the square footage amounts.
- F. **Disposal system and Trenches.**
- Disposal trenches that are 3 feet wide may be utilized as part of this policy only when it has been established that the designated or useable sewage disposal area is incapable of providing sufficient absorptive area utilizing 2 feet wide trenches (primary system and replacements).
- G. Differing and individualized disposal system specifications corresponding to the specifics of an individual percolation test rate within a sewage disposal area may be issued if a significant difference in elevation (at least 4 feet) and substantial horizontal separation (at least 50 feet) exists between the different percolation tests within the area. Otherwise, the disposal system will be designed using the most limiting percolation test and soil profile information.
- H. **Reference.**
1. This policy was adapted from St. Mary's County Health Department Environmental Health Division's Policy Directive DWC#28. Reference materials used in the creation of that policy as well as independently gathered information were evaluated by the Calvert County Health Department Division of Environmental Health. A focus group of stakeholders from various backgrounds operating in Calvert County was contacted and offered an opportunity to provide input. The focus group consisted of Rodney Gertz, Anthony Williams, Rick Bailey, Wayne Tabor, and Jeffrey Tewell. The details of and execution of this policy are a direct product of cooperation and collaboration with the focus group.