

Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Sizing for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)

CDPHE Regulation 43 Clarification for OWTS Sizing for ADUs

- CDPHE defines 1 bedroom as accounting for 2 people at 150 gallons per day (GPD) for the first 3 bedrooms, then sizing changes to 1 person at 75 GPD for each additional bedroom.
- New Residences (ie. the main house) are sized for a minimum of 2-bedrooms at 300 GPD.
- ADUs are sized for a minimum of 1-bedroom at 150 GPD.
 - ADU = any accessory dwelling unit that has plumbing and includes a shower, bath, and/or a stove, ie. a guest house, apartment over garage or in basement, studio with bedroom, mother-in-law suite, etc.
 - ADU is not to be used as an additional bedroom to the main dwelling for GPD sizing.

Examples of OWTS Sizing for ADUs

OWTS sizing is determined by the bedroom count per structure. For example:

- 5-bedroom main house + 1-bedroom ADU is sized for a total of **750 GPD**.
 - 600 GPD for the main house.
 - 150 GPD for the 1-bedroom ADU.
- **If structures share a tank**, use the total bedroom count between structures to calculate the tank capacity.
 - The 5-bedroom main house + 1-bedroom ADU requires a minimum of 1750-gal (6-bedrooms total).
- **If structures use separate tanks**, use the total bedroom count per structure to calculate tank capacity.
 - The 5-bedroom house requires a minimum of 1500-gal (5-bedrooms total).
 - The 1-bedroom ADU requires a minimum of 1000-gal (1-bedroom total).

