

# Policy on using no closer than existing system allowance to setbacks

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This policy is intended to define requirements for onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) designs and installations using Boulder County OWTS Regulations Table 7-1 Minimum *Horizontal Distances in Feet Between Components of OWTS Installed After November 15, 1973, and Water, Physical, and Health Impact Features* footnote:

*“For repair or upgrading of existing OWTS where the size of lot precludes adherence to these distances, a repaired OWTS shall not be closer to setback features than the existing OWTS, as reviewed and approved by BCPH. Components that are not watertight should not extend into areas of the root system of nearby trees.”*

- The existing system must have been installed prior to 1959 **or** be permitted and approved by BCPH.
- The design must indicate the location of the existing systems components and the distances to features where setbacks will be less than minimum requirements.
- Components should be exposed and clearly marked on-site prior to the Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) staff conducting their site inspection.
- If any changes to the location of components will be made as a result of additional components identified during excavation for the installation, BCPH should be contacted immediately. If available, staff will visit the site to visually inspect the components. If unavailable, staff will allow photo documentation with measurements. This documentation must be provided in the engineer final approval letter. **If this discovery will change the design and require a revision of the permit, work must cease until the revised permit is issued.**

For additional information or questions, please contact:

BCPH Water Quality staff

303.441.1564

3450 Broadway

Boulder CO 80304

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