

4.15 Pit Privy

Revision: March 20, 2015

4.15.1 Description

A pit privy is a building that contains a toilet facility located over an excavation in natural soil for the disposal of blackwaste.

4.15.2 Approval Conditions

1. Surface water will be excluded.
2. Pit privies should not be located in floodways.
3. Effective soil depths (IDAPA 58.01.03.008.02.c) and separation distances (IDAPA 58.01.03.008.02.d) shall be met from the pit excavation with the following exceptions:
 - a. Clay soils of all types are acceptable.
 - b. Impermeable layer restrictions are waived.
4. Structures on the property served by water under pressure shall install a subsurface sewage disposal system.
5. The pit shall be abandoned when the blackwaste comes within 16 inches of the ground surface.
6. The pit privy installation permit shall contain a statement that requires the pit privy to be abandoned upon the installation of a subsurface sewage disposal system.

4.15.3 Pit Construction Requirements

1. Area where the privy is placed must be
 - a. Firm and level for at least 12 inches from the sides of the building.
 - b. Shall be at least 12 inches above the highest ground elevation as measured 18 inches from the sides of the building.
 - c. Shall be graded at a maximum slope of 3:1 starting 18 inches from the sides of the building
2. Pit dimensions should be at least 3 feet wide on all sides and 4 feet deep but no deeper than 6 feet below original ground level.
3. Pit cribbing, when required, shall
 - a. Fit firmly.
 - b. Be in uniform contact with the earth walls on all sides.
 - c. Rise at least 6 inches above the original ground line and descend to the full depth of the pit.

4.15.4 Building Construction Requirements

1. The privy building shall be firmly anchored and rigidly constructed.
2. All openings, spaces, and cracks that would permit flies to access the pit must be no wider than one-sixteenth of an inch. This would include doors and seats when closed.

3. Doors shall be self-closing.
4. The privy building shall be ventilated with two screened openings that each have a cross-sectional area of 1 ft² per seat located at the top of opposite walls.
5. All gaps larger than one-sixteenth of an inch shall be screened with a maximum 16-mesh screen size.
6. The pit must be vented through the building with a screened vent stack having a minimum diameter of 3 inches per seat and extending at least 12 inches above the roof of the building.
7. The seat opening shall be at least 12 inches from the side walls in all privies and spaced so that there is at least 24 inches between seats in multiple-seat installations.
8. The seat shall have an inside clearance of at least 21 inches from the front wall and 24 inches from the rear wall of the privy.
9. The seat top shall not be less than 12 inches or more than 20 inches above the floor.
10. The floor and toilet riser shall be built of nonabsorbent and sealed material or tongue-and-groove lumber and in a manner to deny access to insects.
11. The seat shall be constructed of nonabsorbent material.

4.15.5 Abandoning a Pit Privy

1. The privy building should be dismantled, and the portions of the building that may have come into contact with human sewage should be disposed of in a landfill.
2. The pit shall be filled with soil that is free of rock and graded to allow for about 12 inches of settling.
3. The site should be marked and protected from traffic or excavation activities.