

4.26 Seepage Pit/Bed

Revision: April 18, 2013

4.26.1 Definition

An absorption pit filled with standard drainfield aggregate.

4.26.2 Approval Conditions

1. Seepage pit disposal facilities may be used on a case-by-case basis within the boundaries of Eastern Idaho Public Health District (District Health Department Seven) when an applicant can demonstrate to the district director's satisfaction that the soils and depth to ground water are sufficient to prevent ground water contamination. The district director shall document all such cases (IDAPA 58.01.03.008.11).
 - a. For all other districts, replacement seepage pits may be allowable as a last resort if no other alternatives are feasible, and the site meets conditions of approval 1.a through 6 as stated herein. The district director shall document all such cases (IDAPA 58.01.03.008.11) and issue the installation permit as a nonconforming permit.
2. For all other districts, the site must meet the requirements of a standard system except that it is not large enough (IDAPA 58.01.03.008.11.b).
3. Area must not have any shallow domestic, public wells, or sink holes connected by underground channels.
4. Pit bottom must be no deeper than 18 feet below the natural ground surface. The bottom of the pit must conform to the effective soil depth chart (IDAPA 58.01.03.008.02.c). *The top of the pit may be more than 4 feet below ground surface.*
5. Seepage pits may not be installed in design group C soils.
6. A test hole must be performed to a depth of 6 feet below the proposed termination of the bottom of the seepage pit prior to permit issuance.

4.26.3 Sizing

The effective area of the pit may be determined from Table 4-25 (for round pits) and by the square footage of the pit sidewalls below the effluent pipe (rectangular beds).

Seepage bed example:

Pit dimensions are 10 feet wide x 15 feet long, and the pit is 8 feet deep below the effluent pipe:

$$(10 \text{ feet wide}) \times (8 \text{ feet deep}) = 80 \text{ ft}^2 \rightarrow (80 \text{ ft}^2) \times (2 \text{ sidewalls of the same dimension}) = 160 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$(15 \text{ feet wide}) \times (8 \text{ feet deep}) = 120 \text{ ft}^2 \rightarrow (120 \text{ ft}^2) \times (2 \text{ sidewalls of the same dimension}) = 240 \text{ ft}^2$$

$$(240 \text{ ft}^2) + (160 \text{ ft}^2) = 400 \text{ ft}^2$$

Round seepage pit example:

$$(\pi d) \times h = \text{effective disposal area}$$

d = diameter, h = height, $\pi = 3.14$

Table 4-25. Effective area of round seepage pits.

Diameter of Seepage Pit (feet)	Effective Depth Below Effluent Line (feet)									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	9	19	28	38	47	57	66	75	85	94
4	13	25	38	50	63	75	88	101	113	126
5	16	31	47	63	79	94	110	126	141	157
6	19	38	57	75	94	113	132	151	170	188
7	22	44	66	88	110	132	154	176	198	220
8	25	50	75	101	126	151	176	201	226	251
9	28	57	85	113	141	170	198	226	254	283
10	31	63	94	126	157	188	220	251	283	314
11	35	69	104	138	173	207	242	276	311	346
12	38	75	113	151	188	226	264	302	339	377

4.26.4 Construction

1. Standard drainfield aggregate shall be used to fill the entire pit/bed excavation.
 - a. If seepage pit rings or structural blocks are utilized in pit/bed construction the aggregate shall only be required to fill the excavation void around the seepage rings or structural blocks and above the seepage ring lid to a point 2 inches above the effluent pipe.
 - b. In pit/bed installations utilizing seepage pit rings a minimum depth of 12 inches of standard drainfield aggregate shall be placed below the seepage rings.
2. Effluent pipe shall be covered with a minimum of 2 inches of aggregate.
3. Seepage pit/bed excavation shall be covered with geotextile, straw, or untreated building paper.

4. The distribution laterals within the pit/bed should meet the requirements for the standard absorption bed (IDAPA 58.01.03.008.10).
5. If seepage pit rings or structural blocks are utilized in pit/bed construction the effluent pipe may discharge into the central dump point in the ring structure lid.
6. Effluent and distribution piping utilized in seepage pit/beds with installation depths greater than 3 feet from grade to the top of the pit/bed installation shall utilize ASTM D3034 or stronger piping to prevent piping collapse.