



DPS | Montgomery County
Department of Permitting Services



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<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps/>

January 10, 2020

Memorandum

To: All septic installers, builders, engineers, surveyors, property owners
From: Heidi Benham, Manager, Well and Septic Section
Re: 2020 septic system design and installation updates

All septic system permits issued after Monday, February 3, 2020, shall require the following updates for septic system design and installations, unless specifically exempted by the Department in writing:

Design/pre-construction updates –

- Prior to pre-construction meeting, silt fence shall be installed just downgrade of the area to be disturbed for installation of all drainfields
- For all new system designs, in addition to the start point of the initial absorption system, all corners of the established sewage disposal area shall be staked by a licensed surveyor prior to request for pre-construction meeting
- In all cases for properties with established sewage disposal areas, drainfields shall be specified to be installed in the highest portion of the area
- For all system designs with more than one trench, a distribution box shall be specified – serial distribution shall be avoided whenever possible

Installation/materials updates -

- All solid pipe to be installed shall be schedule 40 PVC pipe or equivalent
- All solid pipe and distribution boxes shall be ‘bedded’ in #57 clean uniform stone or equivalent
- Observation ports shall be installed on all distribution boxes and at the ends of all trenches
- All pipe work from house (or structure) to septic tank shall be inspected by WSSC under valid permit
- Within 7 days of completion and approval of septic system installation, all disturbed areas shall be stabilized (seed and straw or equivalent)

These updates/requirements shall be implemented to improve the function, longevity and monitoring of all septic system installations in the County. If you have any questions, please contact me via email at Heidi.benham@montgomerycountymd.gov or by phone at 240-777-6318. Thank you.