

**Jefferson County Health & Human Services
Environmental Health Division**

Policy Statement Number 3 – 91

Program: On-Site Sewage Treatment
Subject: Vertical Separation


- I. Effective this date, the following table shall be adopted concerning minimum vertical separation/soil depth for installation of on-site sewage systems in Jefferson County.
 - A. Minimum soil depth/vertical separations required for approval of soil absorption systems and alternative designs shall be as provided for in Table 1990 – 1, “Minimum Soil Depth/Vertical Separation”.
 - B. Appeals may be made in writing pursuant to Jefferson County Policy Statement 2 – 88.
- II. WAC 248-96-100 (2) states that soil absorption systems shall not be permitted where 36” of vertical separation cannot be maintained; however, the separation may be reduced to one foot by the Health Officer under certain conditions. Effective sewage treatment in soils is a function of soil texture, depth and extent of saturation. Shallow soils provide less retention time because of reduced volume and are prone to effluent short circuiting where steps are not taken to provide for uniform dosed applications. Therefore, 36 inches of vertical separation shall be required for conventional drainfields. The table addresses alternative systems suitable for various soil depths and textures.
- III. This policy shall remain in effect until amended or repealed by the Jefferson County Board of Health.



Health Officer

February 22, 1991

Effective Date



Chairman, Board of Health

February 12, 1991

Date of Review

Minimum Soil Depth / Vertical Separation

1990 – 01

SOIL TYPE

		1	2	3	4	5	6			
SOIL DEPTH	0"							0"	VERTICAL SEPARATION	
	12"	NOT SUITABLE						12"		
	18"	SAND FILTER followed by a MOUND						18"		
	24"	SAND FILTER followed by a PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION SSAS or MOUND						24"		
	30"							30"		
	36"	SAND LINED TRENCH with PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION Or SAND LINED BED with PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION	PRESSURIZED DISTRIBUTION SSAS						36"	
	48"		GRAVITY TRENCH or BED	GRAVITY TRENCH						