



County of Santa Cruz



Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health

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LAMP and repairs which may not have percolation data specific to the property

The LAMP put in place sizing of the leachfield using application rates from the state OWTS policy. To use application rate approach, the percolation rate of the soil in the drainfield area is needed. In some cases, a repair may be needed on a parcel for which there is no percolation data. In this situation, information gained from soils mapping can be used to determine what soil percolation range applies for the proposed leachfield.

For soils in the 6-30mpi, the default application rate of 0.533 gal/sf/day will be used to determine the leachfield size. This rate is associated with the percolation rate for 30mpi.

For soils in the 31-60mpi, the default application rate of 0.278 gal/sf/day will be used to determine the leachfield size. This rate is associated with the percolation rate for 53mpi.

Using these application rates, the required size of the leachfield would be approximately the same or smaller than what was required prior to the LAMP. See the table below:

Percolation Rate	Bedroom# Count	Sizing of Leachfield (square feet)	
		Old Ordinance	LAMP and Default Application Rates
1-5mpi*	1 bedroom	500	208
	2 bedroom	625	250
	3- bedroom	750	312
	4- bedroom	875	375
6-30mpi	1 bedroom	600	471
	2 bedroom	750	562
	3- bedroom	900	703
	4- bedroom	1050	844
31-60mpi	1 bedroom	900	899
	2 bedroom	1125	1079
	3- bedroom	1350	1348
	4- bedroom	1575	1618

*Bedroom current definition is tied to the Planning Department definition

For soils percolating slower than 60mpi, an enhanced treatment system would be required for a repair.

*For faster percolation soils, 1-5mpi, conventional repairs would not be allowed in the nitrate concern areas, an enhanced treatment system would be required. In areas which are not nitrate concern areas, a conventional repair could occur but the groundwater separation would need to be 20 feet if 50-100 feet or 8 feet if greater than a 100 feet from a stream. Most of the CZU fire area in Bonny Doon and Boulder Creek is in a nitrate concern area.

If a parcel owner does not want to use the default application rates, they may choose to conduct percolation tests under the Site Evaluation process.