



Septic System Permit Application Handout

16319 Kettle River Blvd, Columbus, MN 55025
Phone: 651-464-3120 | Submit permit applications to
permitcdr@ci.columbus.mn.us

CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS IN COLUMBUS, MN Chapter 14, Public Health, Wells, Sewers & Utilities

Designs:

- Columbus code currently requires that an alternative/secondary system be required at all times. That means on existing properties, a secondary area will need to be identified. Please provide a minimum of 3,000 sq ft and if the secondary area is separate from the primary area. You will need an additional two soil borings, one of which must be located in the most restrictive area. The secondary area will need to meet the requirements for a type I system. (Section 14-633, 14-635 (B)(E,1), 14-636, 7081.0270, subparts 3 to 7)
- Construction of accessory buildings and building additions over 240 sq ft require a secondary area of 3,000 sq ft identified. You will need an additional two soil borings, one of which must be located in the most restrictive area. The secondary area will need to meet the requirements for a type I system. (Section 14-636, 7081.0270, subparts 3 to 7)
- Type II floodplains systems are not permitted. (Section 14-635 (H), Anoka 2018-5, 2.16)
- Four borings are required on all system designs. (Section 14-635 (B,2))
- Gravity trenches need a minimum of four equal trenches unless more trenches are needed to meet the 15 percent requirements for sand see MPCA Rule 7080.2210 Subp 4(F)(2) (Section 14-635 (B,3))
- Septic tanks need to be placed a minimum of 20' from any building exit. (Section 14-635 (F,1))
- Columbus has larger septic tank sizing, but if garbage disposal or pump is identified, the septic tanks need to meet the larger state tank sizing.
- An existing or proposed/alterative Soil Treatment Area shall be clearly identified and protected prior to the issuance of a building permit.
- Soil Treatment Areas, including alternative areas, located on Commercial property shall be permanently protected from all vehicle traffic.

Compliance (Section 14-637):

- Columbus has a point of sale compliance inspection requirement.
- Compliance inspections are required on properties constructing accessory buildings and building additions over 240 sq ft.
- Bedroom additions; the existing system will need to support additional bedroom(s).
- A SSTS found in compliance but lacking proper access to the maintenance access shall conform with requirements for access.

For more information regarding Chapter 14 of the City of Columbus Code of Ordinances please visit:
<https://www.ci.columbus.mn.us/ordinances>