

Use of Metal Detection Markings for Standard On-site Septic Systems

PURPOSE

To assist in determining the location of subsurface disposal fields after installation.

GENERAL

Due to the difficulty in finding the exact location of leachfield lines for those on-site septic systems not having valve boxes at the beginning and end of the leach lines, it was the recommendation of the Land Use Advisory Panel to require galvanized pipe or rebar in the leachfield lines. Tests performed by Environmental Health Staff and Authority Representatives found best results for detecting galvanized pipe/rebar at depths of 24 inches.

AUTHORITY

California Plumbing Code, Appendix K

This policy supercedes Sonoma County Department of Public Health Administrative Order 91-8.

PROCEDURE

Standard septic systems installed in Sonoma County shall be permanently marked with metal detection devices.

A two foot x ½ inch galvanized pipe or rebar is to be installed:

1. Flush and vertical at each distribution box.
2. In a vertical position against the trench wall at the end of the leach line, and also in the middle of lines that are longer than 50 feet. The pipe or rebar shall not be placed at a depth greater than 24 inches.

If the leachfield is a pressure distribution type with valve boxes at the beginning and end of each line the above requirements do not apply.

Approved by:

Date posted 9/27/02

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