

Howard County Environmental Health

137 N Elm St
Cresco, IA 52136
563.547.9212

Requirements for Onsite Wastewater Systems in Howard County

- ✓ A site evaluation with an Environmental Health official is required before *any* work is done
- ✓ Permit Fee \$125.00
- ✓ Perc Test Required Prior to Permit Approval
- ✓ System Installed According to Iowa Code Chapter 69
- ✓ Inspection Done Prior to System Being Covered
- ✓ Map of Entire System Must be Provided to Sanitarian Upon Completion

Key Points of Iowa Code Chapter 69

Septic Tank:

Double Compartment Tank

Up to and including 3-bedroom homes	1,250 gal.	5-bedroom homes	1,750 gal.
4-bedroom homes	1,500 gal.	6-bedroom homes	2,000 gal.

- The tank should have an effluent screen on the outlet pipe of the tank
- Minimum of 10' distance from house and 50' from well

Secondary treatment:

SOIL ABSORPTION SIZING CHART (LINEAL FEET OF ABSORPTION TRENCH BASED ON 3' TRENCH)

Min/Inch	2 bedroom	3 bedroom	4 bedroom	5 bedroom	6 bedroom
1-5	84	125	167	208	250
6-10	125-167	188-250	250-333	312-417	375-500
11-29	167-200	250-300	333-400	417-500	500-600
30-45	200-250	300-375	400-500	500-625	600-750
46-60	250-500	375-750	500-1000	625-1250	750-1500

- Minimum of 100' separation from any well
- Minimum of 10' from edge of drainage ditch and property lines
- Minimum of 25' from stream or pond
- Maximum 100' length per line
- Level and of similar length
- No deeper than 3' to bottom of trench (18 to 24" is recommended)
- At least 6' of undisturbed soil between laterals

For further installation details please refer to Chapter 69 of the Iowa Administrative Code or contact the Howard County Environmental Health office at (563) 547-9212. When out of the office Marshall Rogne can be reached at (563) 380-5685.