FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

A ground absorption sewage disposal and treatment system shall be located at least:

100' from any private water supply source, except when conditions prohibit. Exceptions must be approved by the Health Department.
100' from any public water supply source
100' from normal high water line of any Class I or II impounded reservoir used as a source of drinking water
100' from streams classified as WS-I (streams that feed public reservoirs)
50' from any other streams, canal, marsh, or coastal waters
50' from normal high water line of any other lake or impoundment.
5' from any building foundation
15' from any underground basement
10' from any property line
15' from the top of a slope of an embankment or cut of two feet or more vertical height
10' from any water line
10' upslope, 15' sideslope, or 25' downslope from an interceptor drain
25' from ground water lowering ditches
15' from any swimming pool
20' from any other nitrification field

These distances represent minimum horizontal distances.

This brochure was prepared by the
Macon County Public Health Center
Environmental Health Staff, 1997

MACON COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT

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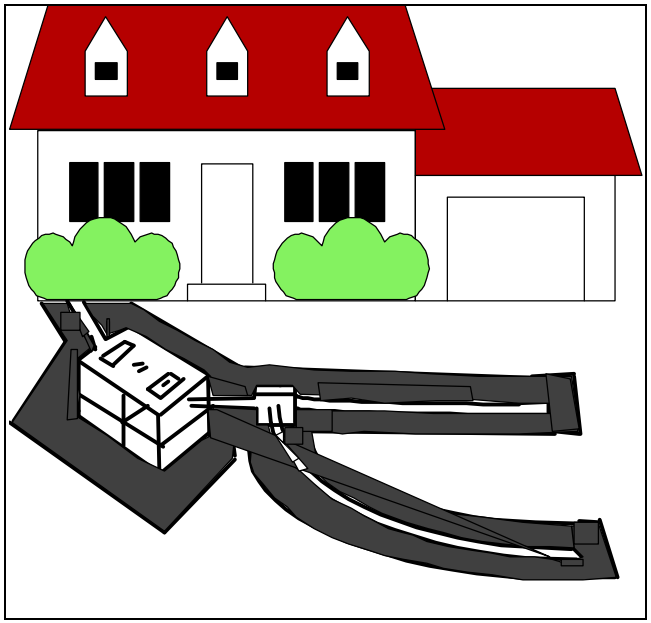

HOME SEPTIC SYSTEMS

People living in areas not served by municipal sewer facilities must make provisions for household and human waste.

A HOME SEPTIC SYSTEM CONSISTS OF THREE BASIC COMPONENTS:

1. The septic TANK is a precast concrete structure that is typically about five feet wide, five feet deep, and nine feet long. Wastes that come from the home enter the tank where the solids settle to the bottom to become a sludge that slowly decomposes.

2. Liquids in the septic tank flow out into the DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. A distribution box has holes in its sides--one hole serves as an inlet for waste water from the septic tank and the remaining holes connect to a series of pipes which are set so that waste water flows to the nitrification field.

3. The NITRIFICATION FIELD consists of a series of nitrification lines. Each line, depending on the type of system and soil type, could be from 12" to 36" wide and from 12" to 36" deep. The length and number of nitrification lines are determined by projected water use and the ability of the soil to absorb water.

Other systems are considered when soil and site conditions prohibit the installation of a conventional gravel system. Some of these are gravelless and may or may not require an engineer's certification. Information concerning these types of systems will be provided when a site evaluation is performed by an Environmental Health Specialist.

An Improvement Permit and an Authorization for Wastewater System Construction are required prior to obtaining any building permit.

An on-site evaluation of the property is performed by an Environmental Health Specialist according to the North Carolina Laws and Rules for Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems, 15A NCAC 18A.1900. The following will be evaluated:

Topography - slope or steepness of property.

Soil Structure/
Soil Texture - ability of soil to absorb water based on the combination of sand, silt, and clay.

Depth of Soil - acceptable soil depth.

Restrictive Horizons - layers in the soil that hinder the flow of water or do not properly treat the effluent.

Soil Drainage - ability of soil to remove excess water, determined by soil color.

Adequate Space - enough area for installation of system and for future repair to the system, if required.

Once the evaluation is completed and the property is determined to be suitable or provisionally suitable for a sewage treatment and disposal system, an improvement permit and/or authorization for construction will be issued. Upon installation of the system, an operations permit must be issued by an Environmental Health Specialist.