



General information regarding  
**REPAIR OF EXISTING DECKS**  
and/or  
**NEW DECKS or ADDITIONS TO EXISTING DECKS**

When determining the placement of a project such as a deck, it is critical that the septic system not be compromised in any way. Because a septic system needs periodic maintenance, cleaning and sometimes replacement, construction over or in close proximity to a system is prohibited.

What does County of Marin EHS require on all projects?

- Building plans must show septic tank, disposal field (leach lines), and water sources (wells and springs) on plot plan.
- Plans need to show parcel boundaries, existing structures & have a North arrow
- Maintain setbacks as noted.

	Setback to Septic Tank	Setback to Edge of Disposal Field
Repair of existing deck *	3 – 5 ft.	3 – 5 ft.
New Deck or Addition to existing deck	5 ft.	10 ft.

- Provide documentation of system inspection, if required. (see below)
- No structures can be built over the disposal field (leach lines).
- Nonconforming tanks (redwood, steel) must be replaced under permit from EHS.
- A potential reserve area must be determined by a Qualified Professional or Marin County REHS only, and shown on plot plan.
- Approval of repair of existing deck, addition to, and/or a new deck will be based on availability of a replacement area for septic system.
- Decks must provide access to septic tank, water sources, and the piers or foundation must meet the set backs as per above table. An access panel large enough for access and egress to the septic tank must be installed in cases where a deck is approved over a septic tank.
- Piers for a new deck must be a minimum of 5 feet away from the septic tank and 10 ft from edge of disposal field.
- Building permit cannot be approved until all documentation is received in EHS.

**Class I or Class II** - *No inspection of system is required.* Recommend system be pumped and inspected by an approved licensed septic pumper service.

**Class III** – *Septic system inspection (may require hydraulic load testing if determined by EHS REHS)* required by an approved licensed septic pumper service or NAWT/QSP (National Association Waste Transporter /Qualified Service Providers) or a Qualified Professional. Recommend system have risers and effluent filters. Reserve area to be set aside if one is not shown on plans.

**Class IV** - *Require system to be documented and inspected (including hydraulic load testing) by a NAWT/QSP or Qualified Professional. (Date of Inspection report will need to be within one year before date of building permit application)* The inspector's report must include a simple plot plan indicating the location of septic tank, sumps, disposal field, etc in relation to the residence(s) or other structures. Reserve area to be set aside if one is not shown on plans.

*\* In cases where the existing deck is less than required set back, an engineering certification report may be submitted indicating that the integrity of the deck and septic tank have not been jeopardized.*