



County of Santa Cruz

Health Services Agency ♦ Environmental Health

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Upgrade Standards

Upgrade System is a replacement system or addition to an existing system that is needed to serve an expansion of an existing legal use, including a bedroom addition, accessory dwelling unit, or residential remodel greater than 500 sq. ft. System upgrades to current standards are required in order to do a major remodel.

Types of Systems, Requirements, and Building Allowances

System Type	Conditions	Requirements	Building Allowed
Upgrade	Conventional, meets standards		ADU; Bedroom Addition; and/or >500 sf addition
	Enhanced Treatment for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduced groundwater or surface water separation, fast or slow soil percolation under pavement with traffic rated cover reduced dispersal area existing seepage pits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance Contract Deed recordation Periodic Inspection Annual Fee 	

Groundwater Separation Based on Stream Setback, Treatment, and Soil Percolation (MPI)

Horizontal Setback to Stream	25-50 Feet	50 - 100 Feet	> 100 Feet
Conventional Systems:			
Upgrade System, increase in flow by ADU, bedroom addition or major remodel	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	<1 MPI – Not Permitted 1-5 MPI Not permitted in nitrate concern area 1-5 MPI = 20 feet outside nitrate concern area 5-29.9 MPI = 8 feet 30-60 MPI = 5 feet >60 MPI – Not Permitted
Enhanced Treatment System^{a,b} (BOD, TSS, TN <30 mg/L;-Fecal coliform/E.coli Reduction to 200 MPN/100 ml)			
Upgrade System, increase in flow by ADU, bedroom addition or major remodel	Not Permitted	2 feet	2 feet
Seepage Pit-Repair/Upgrade Only	Not Permitted	Not Permitted	10 feet

^a Enhanced treatment with nitrogen reduction is required for all new, repaired, and replacement OWTS with soils that percolate faster than 5 MPI in nitrate concern areas (see Figure 3-1, Sec.3.2.6)

^b Groundwater separation less than 2 ft can only be approved by Regional Water Board