

Outdoor Toilets



The use of outdoor toilets (privies) is not prohibited by the provisions of MN Rule Chapter 7080. However, there are standards that have to be met in order for their installation and use. MN Rule 7080.2280 governs the official standards of privies. The soils present at the location of the privy must be assessed by licensed septic designer and verified by the County. There must be a minimum of 36 inches of vertical separation from the bottom of the hole to a limiting layer. This limiting layer may be periodically saturated soils, bedrock, or coarse textured soils to name a few.

If the minimum vertical separation cannot be achieved in the location for the privy, an appropriately registered liquid tight tank may be installed. The wastes from this will need to be periodically removed by a septic system maintainer. The size must be designed to have sufficient capacity for the dwelling or purpose it will serve.

The construction must have at least 25 cubic feet of capacity and must be curbed to prevent any cave-in. The Privy must be easily maintained and be insect and vermin proof. The door and seat must be self-closing. All exterior openings, including vents, shall be screened.

The privy must be located at least 100 feet from a water well unless the construction of the well is known and would allow for a value less than this but in no instance will the setback be less than 50 feet. The minimum setback from a lake, river or stream is 200 feet in Nicollet County.

The construction and use of an outhouse must be permitted by Nicollet County and is subject to compliance inspection standards when required.