SUBSURFACE SEEPAGE SYSTEMS

Often called lateral lines, fields or trenches, these systems depend upon the site’s soil absorption properties. Subsurface systems can only be installed in soils which drain well and are not affected by a seasonal high water table. Three different construction materials may be used for a subsurface seepage system: gravel, gravelless pipe, and chamber. Two different construction techniques may be used: trenches or beds. A soil evaluation must be performed by a certified professional to determine the minimum square footage required. If the evaluation determines soil conditions are not adequate, an alternative system must be used.

Advantages
- Usually lower installation cost
- Low maintenance, pump septic tank every three to five years
- No surface discharge

Disadvantages
- Requires suitable soils, low permeability requires larger fields
  - high clay soils are unsuitable
  - shallow bedrock is unsuitable
  - high or seasonable high water tables are unsuitable
- Cannot have deep rooted plants or construction over the system
GRAVEL SYSTEM - PLAN VIEW

Building Sewer ➔ Septic Tank

100 Ft. Maximum

6 Ft. - 9 Ft.

A gravel system must be looped together

GRAVELLESS AND CHAMBER SYSTEM - PLAN VIEW

Building Sewer ➔ Septic Tank

100 Ft. Maximum

6 Ft. to 9 Ft.

A gravelless or chamber system is not looped together

SEEPAGE BED - PLAN VIEW

Building Sewer

6 Ft.

18 In.

Perforated Pipe

Gravel

SEEPAGE BED - SIDE VIEW

12" - 24" Earth Cover

2" Gravel Perforated Pipe

6" Gravel