

Setbacks from Drinking Water Wells to Features of Concern.

The IDWR Well Construction Standards Rules Section 35 establishes the Health Standards for wells drilled in Idaho. Section 035. Public Supply states: All wells that are constructed for public supply of domestic water shall, in addition to meeting these standards, meet the requirements set forth by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Rules, IDAPA 58.01.08, “Rules for Public Drinking Water Systems”. Additionally the IDWR rules establish separation distance criteria for wells from contaminant sources. Section 035.03 states: “Distances from Contaminate Sources. All water wells constructed for domestic use shall comply with minimum distances form septic tanks, drainfields, drainfield replacement areas and other siting requirements of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the appropriate District Health Department.”

The following table is a listing of the setback distances (in feet) as found in DEQ rules, DHD guidelines, or the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC). Please note that the 10 States Standards for Water and Wastewater (38.2 on page 30-11 for Wastewater) refer the reader to local state codes and ordinances for specific setback distances.

Feature of Concern	PWS Well	Individual Well	Code/Rule/Guideline
Building Sewer Line	50*	50*	UPC 2000 (Table 7-7)
Septic Tank	100	50	58.01.03.007
Septic Tank	100	NA	58.01.08.900
Septic Tank	NA	50	ID Guidelines for Non-PWS
Effluent line		50	58.01.03.007
Drainfield	100	100	58.01.03.008
Drainfield Replacement Area	100	100	58.01.03.008
Drainfield	100	NA	58.01.08.900
Drainfield	NA	100	ID Guidelines for Non-PWS
LSAS Drainfield	150-300	150-300	58.01.03.013
LSAS Replacement Area	150-300	150-300	58.01.03.013
Seepage Pit	100	100	58.01.03.008
Seepage Pit	100	NA	58.01.08.900
Cesspool	NA	150	ID Guidelines for Non-PWS
Sewer Line	50	NA	58.01.08.900
Sewer Lines	NA	50	ID Guidelines for Non-PWS

*Can be reduced to 25 feet see UPC 2000, Table 7-7