

**City of Taunton  
Board of Health**

**Septic Percolation Rate Regulation**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this regulation is to provide for the protection of the public health and safety and the environment from the consequences of on-site sewage disposal system failures including but not limited to groundwater contamination, imminent health threats, transmission of diseases, unsanitary conditions, and nuisance conditions, by requiring the proper percolation rate and design criteria suitable for the City of Taunton's environmental structure, soils, and needs.

**Authority:**

The Taunton Board of Health, pursuant to its rule making authority under MGL Ch.111 Section 127, and MGL Ch 21A Section 13, hereby adopts the following regulation relative to requiring that all on site sewage disposal systems for new construction require a percolations rate of at least thirty, (30), minutes per inch within the jurisdiction of the City of Taunton.

**Definitions:**

310 CMR 15.000, means the State Environmental Code, Title 5 Standard Requirements for the Siting, Construction, Inspection, Upgrade, and Expansion of On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems and for the Transport and Disposal of Septage.

Local Approving Authority, as defined in 310 CMR 15.002 means the Board of Health or its authorized agent or an agent of a health district constituted pursuant to MGL c.111, sec. 27 acting on behalf of the applicable Board of Health.

New Construction, as defined in 310 CMR 15.002 means the construction of a new building for which an occupancy permit is required or an increase in the actual or design flow to any nonconforming system or to any other system above the existing approved capacity. New construction shall not include replacement or repair of an existing building totally or partially destroyed or demolished if there is no increase in flow or no increase in flow above the exiting approved capacity to any system.

On-Site System or On-Site Subsurface Sewage Disposal System or System, as defined in 310 CMR 15.002 means a system or series of systems for the treatment and disposal of sanitary sewage below the ground surface on a facility. (a) The standard components of a system are: a building sewer; a septic tank to retain solids and scum; a distribution box; a soil absorption system containing effluent distribution lines to distribute and treat septic tank effluent prior to discharge to appropriate subsurface soils; and a reserve area. (b) These terms also include tight tanks, shared systems and alternative systems. Unless the text of 310 CMR 15,000 indicates otherwise, these terms also include nonconforming systems.

Percolation Test, as defined in 310 CMR 15.002 means a field test to assess the suitability of soils in a defined area for the subsurface disposal of sewage as described in 310 CMR 15.106 and 15.107.

A true copy.  
Attest:

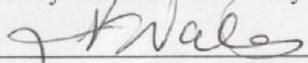
*Rose Marie Blackwell*  
City Clerk

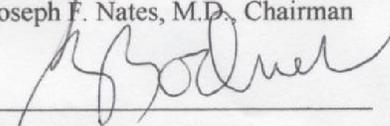
**Percolation Rate Acceptable for All New Construction:**

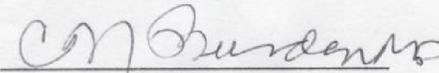
- (A) All new construction proposals must have a percolation rate no more than 30 minutes per inch.
- (B) A percolation rate of more than 30 minutes per inch for proposed new construction shall constitute a failed percolation test, which shall deem the property not suitable for an on-site sewage disposal system.

Voted on and adopted the 16th Day of December 2003.

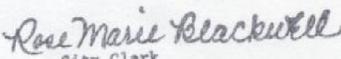
Signed by the Board on January 20, 2004.

  
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Joseph F. Nates, M.D., Chairman

  
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Bruce E. Bodner, M.D.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
C. Nason Burden, M.D.

A true copy.  
Attest:

  
City Clerk