

Maximum Percolation Rate

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

Issue Overview Title 5 requires a maximum percolation rate of 60 minutes per inch for septic system installation. Some municipalities set the maximum percolation rate at 20, 25 or 30 minutes per inch.

Percolation rate is the time it takes one inch of water to drain from a hole dug at the site of a proposed septic system. If the soil in the disposal area is impermeable, the effluent will not percolate effectively through the soil, and a pond of inadequately filtered effluent will remain in the yard.

Research Coding Researcher looked for language such as “soil with a percolation rate more than 20 minutes per inch will not be considered acceptable” and “the maximum percolation rate shall be 20 minutes per inch.” Where there is no reference in the regulations to a maximum percolation rate, researcher entered “60.”

Acton *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 While the Acton Regulations maintain the same maximum allowable percolation rate as the state, there are additional requirements for areas where the percolation rate is greater than 30 minutes per inch:

"11-9.9 Leaching facilities for new construction, when built in areas where the percolation rate is greater than 30 minutes per inch, shall be preceded by a wastewater treatment system that meets the following treatment standards:

Parameter	Quarterly Average
BOD5	30 mg/L
TSS	30 mg/L
Total Nitrogen	19 mg/L"

Amesbury *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in Amesbury regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Ashland *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 Researcher found no reference to maximum allowable percolation rate in the Ashland Regulations, and thus determined that this rate is the same as the state.

Auburn

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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No reference in the Auburn regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Avon

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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Ayer

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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No reference in the Ayer regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Bellingham

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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Survey received from Bellingham Health Agent Mike Graf on 6/1/05 marks that Bellingham has local septic regulations. He writes that they were adopted before 1995 and the Title 5 changes in 1995 superceded most of the local regulations. The only answer he marked as "different from Title 5" is the setback from wells.

Berkley

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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From the section titled "Addendum," "Percolation rates of over 20 minutes an inch are not acceptable, except for repairs of existing systems."

(Board of Health Regulations, Adopted 1998)

Berlin

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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From Section IV, D. Percolation Test, "[m]aximum percolation rate shall be 30 minutes per inch."

(Berlin Board of Health Regulations, Sub-surface Disposal Regulations, Adopted 1996)

Beverly

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

60 The researcher was informed by J. Reale, City of Beverly Environmental Specialist that Beverly does have septic rules on the books, however, the only rule that is enforced relates to the minimum size of leaching fields. Otherwise, according to J. Reale, the City of Beverly follows Title 5. Therefore, with the exception of the question regarding the minimum size of leaching fields, the answer will be the same as the state requirements.

However, it should be noted that the Beverly Regulations provide for a maximum allowable percolation rate of 20 minutes per inch. Regulations for Individual Sewerage Disposal Systems, Chapter 16, Section III (2) (adopted 1981).

Billerica *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference to maximum percolation rate in the Billerica Board of Health Rules & Regulations.

Bolton *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

30 "At least 2 passing (i.e. rates less than 30 minutes/inch) percolation tests must be provided in both the proposed primary leaching area and in the proposed reserve area." From the Bolton Board of Health, Requirements for the Subsurface Disposal of Sanitary Sewage, Regulation 4.a (Adopted 1977, Amended 2001).

On 11/12/04, the researcher confirmed this percolation rate.

Boxborough *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Boxborough regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Boxford *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Boxford Regulations to maximum allowable percolation rate.

Boylston *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Boylston regulations to maximum percolation rate.

From Section II, 12(b), "[i]f less than 30 minutes per inch, the minimum requirement will be two (2) deep holes; one perc test in both primary and reserve. 30-60 minute perc rates in both primary and reserve will require (2) deep holes and three (3) perc tests (to be made at the discretion of the Health Agent)."

Bridgewater *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

20 “Soil with a percolation rate of more than 20 minutes per inch will be considered unacceptable. Such soil will be determined impervious and construction will not be allowed. Soil with a percolation rate of more than 15 minutes per inch shall not be allowed on systems over twelve hundred (1200) gallons per day.”

From The Town of Bridgewater's Wastewater Rules and Regulations, Site Approval, no. 7 (Adopted 1989)

“On any system where there is a percolation rate of more than twelve (12) minutes per inch or where an overnight soak was required or where de-watering was used to accomplish percolation or if in the opinion of the Agent the soil varies to the extent that there is not enough soil of the approved rate for both the leaching and reserve areas, it will be necessary to excavate the leaching and reserve areas into the water table and replace with clean sand or gravel having a perc rate of less than two minutes per inch.” From The Town of Bridgewater's Wastewater Rules and Regulations, Site Approval, no. 4 (Adopted 1989).

Canton *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

20 Canton Board of Health Regulations, Section 2.4 On-site Sewage Disposal Systems (received by fax August 2004)

4. Percolation tests and percolation rates

Percolation tests conducted prior to August, 1980 are not valid

Subsurface sewage disposal systems shall be located in an area where there is at least a four foot depth or five foot where less than 2 minutes per inch perc rate has been established of naturally occurring pervious soil below the entire area of the leaching facility, with a percolation rate less than or equal to 20 minutes per inch.

Carlisle *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference to maximum percolation rate in the Town of Carlisle Supplementary Regulations for Sewage Disposal Systems.

Carver *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Carver regulations to maximum allowed percolation rate.

Chelmsford *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

25 "Cutoff rate on percolation tests is 25 minutes per inch (all uses)." Town of Chelmsford General Provisions, Chapter 200, Article VI, Board of Health,

Cohasset *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Cohasset Regulations to maximum allowable percolation rate.

Concord *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

30 Concord's septic regulations set out a maximum allowable percolation rate as follows:

"Percolation rate - No leaching facility for new construction as defined by section 15.002 of Title 5 shall be sited in areas with percolation rates slower than 30 minutes per inch. The reason for this requirement is to maintain the current level of environmental protection, which is removed by recent amendments to section." Concord Board of Health, CBHR 3.00: On-Site Disposal Systems, Section 3.42(G)(7) (adopted 2/17/04).

Douglas *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Douglas regulations to a maximum percolation rate.

Dover *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

25 The Dover regulations modify the maximum allowable percolation rate to 25 minutes per inch, and "a rate exceeding 25 minutes per inch shall not be accepted." Code of the Town of Dover, Massachusetts, Part II, Chapter 217, Section 217-3(13)(a.) (updated through 8/1/2004).

Dracut *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 Representative of the Board of Health said (10/13/04) that they only enforce one regulation that supplements Title 5 - the setback from wetlands.

Dunstable *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Dunstable regulations to a maximum percolation rate.

Duxbury

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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According to Jennifer Dalrymple, the health agent for the Duxbury Board of Health, the municipality's maximum allowable percolation rate is not less than the state's. (7/14/04)

Easton

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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No reference to maximum allowable percolation rate in the Easton Regulations.

Essex

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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No reference in Essex Regulations to maximum allowable percolation rate.

Foxborough

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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No reference in the Foxborough Regulations to maximum allowable percolation rate.

Georgetown

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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No reference in the Georgetown regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Gloucester

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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No reference in the Gloucester regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Grafton

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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The only salient reference to percolation rate in Grafton's Supplement to Title 5 states that septic design must use the most restrictive percolation rate unless otherwise stated by the BOH.

The researcher found no provisions specifying what on grounds the BOH determined perc rate and concluded Grafton followed Title 5 specifications. On 12/6/04, the researcher confirmed with the BOH via phone that Grafton's maximum allowable percolation rate is the same as the state's.

"Designers must incorporate the most restrictive perc rate and groundwater depth for design unless supplemental information or additional soil testing is performed which will support variations from this policy. The highest elevation in the area of the proposed system shall be used for design determination of the high groundwater table unless said supplemental information is provided and accepted by the Board or its Agent." From the Town of Grafton's Supplement to Title V, "Design" n. 3 (Revised 2004).

Groton *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Groton regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Groveland *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

30 "No percolation test will be allowed where the high water table is found to be in or above the original naturally occurring A or B horizon. Impermeable substratum is defined as having a percolation rate greater than thirty minutes per inch for new construction and sixty minutes per inch for repair/replacement of failed systems."

From the Rules and Regulations of Sewage Disposal, Section III (5) (Adopted 1997).

Halifax *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Halifax regulations to a maximum percolation rate.

Hanover *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference to the maximum allowable percolation rate in the Hanover regulations.

Hanson *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 The regulations only cover what needs to be presented in submitted plans.

Harvard

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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“Percolation tests: twenty-minute limit per inch, allowing a variance up to 30 minutes per inch.” From Harvard Board of Health Regulations, Article 1, 145-1 (D) (Adopted 1974, Amended 1987).

Haverhill

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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No reference in the Haverhill regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Hingham

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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According to Bruce T. Capman, RS, Executive Health Officer, Hingham follows Title V for maximum percolation rate.

Holliston

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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No reference to the maximum allowable percolation rate in the Title V amendments.

Hopedale

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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The Board of Health (11/30/04) indicated that the only local requirement for septic systems related to filters.

Hopkinton

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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No reference in the Hopkinton Regulations to maximum allowable percolation rate.

Ipswich

What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)

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Currently, the maximum percolation is 20 minutes/inch but on 12/3/04 the health agent emailed the researcher that the town is considering changing the percolation to 60 min/inch.

-----Original Message-----

From: Colleen Fermon [mailto:colleen@town.ipswich.ma.us]

Sent: Friday, December 03, 2004 11:38 AM

To: adriana@pioneerinstitute.org

Subject: FW: percolation rate

It is currently but the Board of Health is holding a public hearing on December 6 to discuss a number of changes to their local regulation. This is one of the topics. They are considering changing it to the state's limit of 60 minutes per inch.

"The highest percolation rate allowed will be decreased from the Title 5 limit of 30 minutes/inch to 20 minutes/inch drop."

From Ipswich's Supplements to Title V, Section 8.8 (Adopted 2002)

Kingston *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in Kingston regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Lakeville *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

20 From the section titled "Percolation Test Regulations", "[s]oil with a percolation rate of over 20 minutes per inch is considered impervious and, therefore, unsuitable for the subsurface disposal of sewage."

(Lakeville Board of Health Regulations, Adopted 1986)

Lancaster *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Lancaster regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Leicester *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Leicester regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Leominster *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Leominster regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Lexington *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Lexington regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Lincoln *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference to maximum percolation rate in Lincoln regulations.

Littleton *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

30 Researcher found one reference in the Littleton Regulations to maximum allowable percolation rate, but it appears to be referring to the failing rate according to Title 5: "A leaching area shall not be located closer than twenty five (25) feet from a failing percolation test (ie. rate greater than (30) minutes per inch)..." The Town of Littleton Board of Health Regulations, Requirements for the Subsurface Disposal of Sanitary Sewage, Regulation 5(e) (applicable as revised 8/11/03).

This regulation appears to contemplate a failing percolation rate per Title 5 (by referring to the failing rate as an example). Because the Title 5 maximum percolation rate has recently changed to 60 minutes per inch, the max percolation rate in Littleton should be verified with the Health Agent.

Researcher called the Board of Health on 10/26/04, and confirmed that the maximum percolation rate is 30 minutes per inch.

Lunenburg *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in Lunenburg regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Manchester-by- *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference to the maximum allowable percolation rate in the Title V amendments.

Mansfield *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

20 "Soil with a percolation rate greater than 20 minutes per inch shall be considered unsuitable for the construction and use of a subsurface disposal system." From Mansfield Board of Health Requirements for the Subsurface Disposal of Sanitary Sewage," Section 8 (Adopted October 2002).

Marshfield *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

20 "Over 20-minute/inch percolation rate unsuitable." From Marshfield Rules and Regulations for the Disposal of Sanitary Sewage, Section 3.4 (E) (Adopted 1978, Amended 2000).

Medfield *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference to maximum percolation rate in the Medfield regulations.

Medway *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Medway regulations to a modification of the state maximum allowable percolation rate.

Merrimac *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Merrimac regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Middleborough *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

30 From the Title 5, State Environmental Code Effluent Loading Rates - Soil Absorption Systems - Percolation Rates, "Section 1. The allowable effluent loading rates (gpd/sq.ft.) for soil absorption systems shall be set forth in 310 CMR 15.242(1)(a) with a maximum allowable percolation rate of 30 minutes per inch as set forth in 310 CMR 15.242(1)(a). Section 2. The allowable effluent loading rates (gpd/sq.ft.) for soil absorption systems as set forth in 310 CMR 15.242(1)(b) with a maximum allowable percolation rate of 60 minutes per inch and effective as of January 1, 2004 shall not be applicable in the Town of Middleborough."

(Middleborough Board of Health Regulations in Addition to Title V)

Middleton *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Middleton Regulations to maximum allowable percolation rate.

Millbury *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Millbury regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Millis *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

30 According to the Millis Board of Health Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems Regulations, Section 6(B) (effective 1995), "[n]o percolation rate greater than thirty (30) minutes to the inch will be acceptable to the Board of Health."

Natick *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Natick regulations to maximum percolation rate that is greater than Title 5's requirement. Answer confirmed by Roger Wade, Director of Public Health (8/5/04).

Newbury *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Newbury regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Norfolk *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference to maximum allowable percolation rate in the Norfolk regulations.

North Andover *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference to maximum percolation rate in the North Andover regulations.

North Attleboro *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the North Attleborough regulations to maximum percolation rate.

North Reading *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the North Reading regulations to maximum percolation rates.

Northbridge *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Northbridge regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Norton *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Norton regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Norwell *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 "27. New Construction when Percolation Rates are between 30 and 60 minutes/inch

"On January 1, 2004, Title 5 was changed to allow new construction in areas that have a percolation rate of between 30 and 60 minutes per inch. On this date Title 5 considers any percolation rate greater than 60 minutes per inch impermeable. The lower percolation rates will require larger soil absorption systems.

"Therefore, when the percolation rate exceeds 30 minutes per inch, lot size shall increase. For each one acre lot, when the dwelling exceeds three bedrooms or six rooms, an additional 10,000 square feet is required for each bedroom.

"Pressure dosing is required on any system where the percolation rate is greater than 30 minutes per inch."

Town of Norwell Board of Health Rules and Regulations, Sanitary Disposal of Sewage, Management of Private Water Supplies, & Floor Drainage Regulations, Part 2, Section 27 (adopted 8/13/73, effective with amendments and revisions 1/1/04).

Pembroke *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

30 "(1) New systems shall not be sited in areas with percolation rates slower than 30 minutes per inch. However, consistent with the provisions of 310 CMR

15.417, the Department may permit the construction of up to 20 single-family dwellings in areas with a percolation rate between 30 and 60 minutes per inch.”

From the Pembroke Subsurface Sanitary Sewage Disposal Supplementary Rules and Regulations to State Environmental Code TITLE 5, Section 15.245 (Adopted March 1995).

Pepperell *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Pepperell regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Plainville *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Plainville regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Plymouth *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Plymouth regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Plympton *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 From amendment to regulation 15.104 (4)
"All new systems designed to accommodate more than 2000 gallons per day must have a 20 minute/inch perk rate or less"

(Plympton Board of Health Title V Amendments)

For other systems, the Plympton regulations do not set a maximum percolation rate.

"15.222 Septic Tanks

(1) Septic tanks will have the following capacities:

(c) When a domestic garbage grinder is proposed or installed, the minimum liquid capacity of the septic tank shall be 300% of the design flow with a minimum tank size of 2000 gallons The septic tank must be pumped annually and a report filed with the BOH.

... "

Raynham *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

30 "Any percolation rate greater than 30 mpi is a failure rate."

From the Town of Raynham Regulations Pertaining to the Design, Construction and Maintenance of Sewage Disposal Systems, "Design and Construction" (Adopted 2003).

Rehoboth *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Rehoboth regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Rockport *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Rockport regulations to a maximum percolation rate.

Rowley *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Rowley regulations to a maximum percolation rate.

Salisbury *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Salisbury regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Scituate *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Scituate regulations to maximum allowable percolation rate.

Sharon *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

30 (4) CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR ON-SITE SUBSURFACE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS AND TREATMENT WORKS: All onsite systems and treatment works hereafter constructed shall be of material and design approved by the Board of Health. The minimum acceptable design will conform to the requirements of the state Environmental Code, Title 5, except for higher requirements noted below:

(f) Soil Absorption Systems shall conform to the following:

(iv) No soil absorption system shall be constructed in soils with a percolation rate greater than 30 minutes per inch.

Town of Sharon, Article 7, Septic Regulations, section 7.02(4)(f)(iv) (applicable as amended 1/26/04)

Sherborn *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

20 Sherborn regulations, Section I, 5.2:
"5.2 Percolation Rate
The maximum allowable percolation rate shall be 20 minutes per inch in order for soil to be considered suitable for the subsurface disposal of sewage. A rate exceeding 20 minutes per inch shall not be accepted."

Shirley *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

30 From amendment 4.2a, "[p]ercolation rate of 30 minutes per inch limit - - allowing a variance up to 30 minutes per inch only in ideal conditions. Percolation rates over 20 minutes per inch require leaching trenches. Leaching area requirements for a perc rate of greater than 20 min/inch should be 133% of Title 5 sizing."

(Shirley Board of Health Regulations for Sewage Disposal, Adopted 1984, Amended 1995)

Shrewsbury *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Shrewsbury regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Southborough *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 The Southborough Regulations have an additional requirement for systems with percolation rates between 31-60 minutes per inch which will also incorporate trenches:
"Trenches
"Soil Absorption Systems (S.A.S.) designed using percolation rates between 31 minutes and 60 minutes per inch and for new construction will require the following:
"The area between trenches may be designated as system reserve area only where the separation distance between the excavation sidewalls of the primary trenches is at least nine feet." Southborough Board of Health, Modifications to Massachusetts Title 5 Code, additional regulations (approved 3/11/2004)

Sterling *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Sterling regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Stoughton *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 The town engineer said (1/4/05) that the Septic Regulations (Adopted Sept. 1976) follow Title 5 in every way except that the area requirement for the leaching fields is doubled.

Stow *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Stow regulations to a maximum allowable percolation rate.

Sudbury *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Sudbury regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Sutton *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

30 From an amendment in 2003 to Sewage Disposal Regulation 201-5, "[t]he Sutton Board of Health at a special Public Hearing dated December 16, 2003 and continued to December 30, 2003 voted unanimously to keep the current maximum percolation rate of 30 mpi for new construction as the maximum LTAR for septic system design in the Town of Sutton. This regulation supercedes the amendment to 310 CMP 15.000, which allows system design to 60 mpi for new construction scheduled to become effective January 1, 2004."

(Sutton Board of Health Title V Amendments, Amended 2003)

Swansea *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Swansea regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Tewksbury *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

20 The Tewksbury regulations limit the maximum allowable percolation rate as follows:

5.3 PERCOLATION RATE Any rate over 20 minutes per inch shall be deemed unacceptable for the installation of a subsurface disposal system. Upgrades of existing systems shall be exempt from this regulation.

Topsfield *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

20 The Topsfield regulations allow a maximum percolation rate of 20 minutes per inch, with the following exception: "Should any one inch exceed 20 minutes, the percolation test shall be considered a failure, with the following exception. The percolation rate for tests comprised of a four (4) hour soak, followed by an overnight swell, shall be determined by averaging the rate for the last three (3) inches." Topsfield Board of Health, Supplemental Regulations to 310 CMR, 15.00 Title 5 of the State Environmental Code, Section 16 (provision adopted by vote 11/17/88).

Townsend *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Townsend regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Tyngsborough *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 "Percolation tests shall be conducted in accordance with 310 CMR 15.104 and 15.105."
No reference in the Tyngsborough regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Upton *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Upton regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Uxbridge *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Uxbridge regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Walpole *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Walpole regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Wayland *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Wayland regulations to a maximum percolation rate.

Wellesley *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No mention in the Wellesley regulations to a maximum percolation rate.

West Bridgewater *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the West Bridgewater regulations to a maximum allowed percolation rate.

West Newbury *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

30 According to Section I (D.3), "[t]he following rates will be considered passing:
a. 30 min/in, or faster, for lots of 40,00 s.f. or more
b. 30 min/in, or faster, for lots of less than 40,000 s.f. if served by Town water
c. 20 min/in, or faster, for lots of less than 40,000 s.f. served by a private well."

(West Newbury Board of Health Regulations for Percolation Testing and Septic Systems, Adopted 2003, Amended 2003)

Westford *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

20 The Westford regulations limit maximum allowable percolation rate as follows: "No sewage disposal system serving new construction shall be installed in an area that has a percolation rate greater than twenty minutes per inch. Percolation tests that have rates greater than twenty minutes per inch shall be located a minimum of twenty-five feet from the proposed soil absorption system." Westford Board of Health Regulations, Requirements for the Subsurface Disposal of Sanitary Sewage, Section 6.11 (undated).

Weston *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Weston regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Wilmington *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Wilmington regulations to maximum percolation rate.

Wrentham *What maximum percolation rate does the municipality allow for septic installation? (Title 5: 60 minutes/inch)*

60 No reference in the Wrentham regulations to maximum percolation rate.
