

JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA

Health Department Approvals



To construct a new building or add on to an existing building you will need an approval from the **Jefferson County Health Department** if the building is on a **septic system** in order to get a zoning approval and building permit.

Minimum Requirements for a New Septic

- 1 A fully completed application and a construction plan layout (3 copies) of the proposed septic system.
- 2 The application fee (please call for the amount).
- 3 Your application and construction plans must be signed by an Engineer, Land Surveyor, or Professional Soil Classifier (except for conventional on-site sewage disposal systems such as port-a-lets).
- 4 The construction plans must have a minimum scale of 1"=50'; large tracts of land may be submitted on a scale of 1"=100' or 1"=200' with construction details at 1"=10' and shall indicate the following:
 - a Legal Description
 - b Lot dimensions
 - c The location of the proposed dwelling, including decks, sidewalks, driveways, and any other structures (existing and proposed) or improvements including, but not but not limited to, garages, barns, swimming pools, and retaining walls
 - d Any anticipated cut or fill
 - e The secondary disposal site
 - f Elevations and direction of slope as well as surface drainage and the direction of flow
 - g The location of all known testing, including soil inspection pits and percolation (perc) tests.
 - h All underground utilities
 - i A vicinity map with landmarks
 - j Flood prone areas, including any floodway or floodplain

- k Any easements
- l Any wells within 100' of the system whether in use or not
- m Any other information as required by the Health Department

Minimum Application Requirements to use an existing septic system

In order to receive a "Permission to Use Existing System" approval, the septic system must have been cleaned in the last five years. Approval criteria include:

- 1 The number of additional bedrooms (This may require additional field lines)
- 2 Septic Tank Material (If the tank was constructed with concrete blocks, metal or any material that is not water tight it will need to be upgraded to a system that meets current regulations)

For non-residential structures the approval shall be based upon the projected water usage.

Approvals other than single-family residential

Any commercial, multi-unit residential structure (including apartments), major subdivision development, mobile home park, or industry must contact the Health Department before beginning any work. The Health Department has a booklet available that contains all the current regulations.

Note: Health Department Approvals are only valid for 1 year

Note: Health Department Approvals are required to obtain zoning approvals and building permits in Jefferson County for properties that are not on sewer.

To apply for permits in unincorporated Jefferson County you will need to bring the Health Department Approval to the Jefferson County Department of Land Planning and Development Services for a Zoning Approval.

Other Information Sheets you may need:

- Mobile Homes
- How to Rezone Property
- Subdivisions
- Single-Family Residences

The Jefferson County Health Department is located at 1400 6th Avenue South in near UAB on the Southside of Birmingham.

<http://www.jcdh.org>

