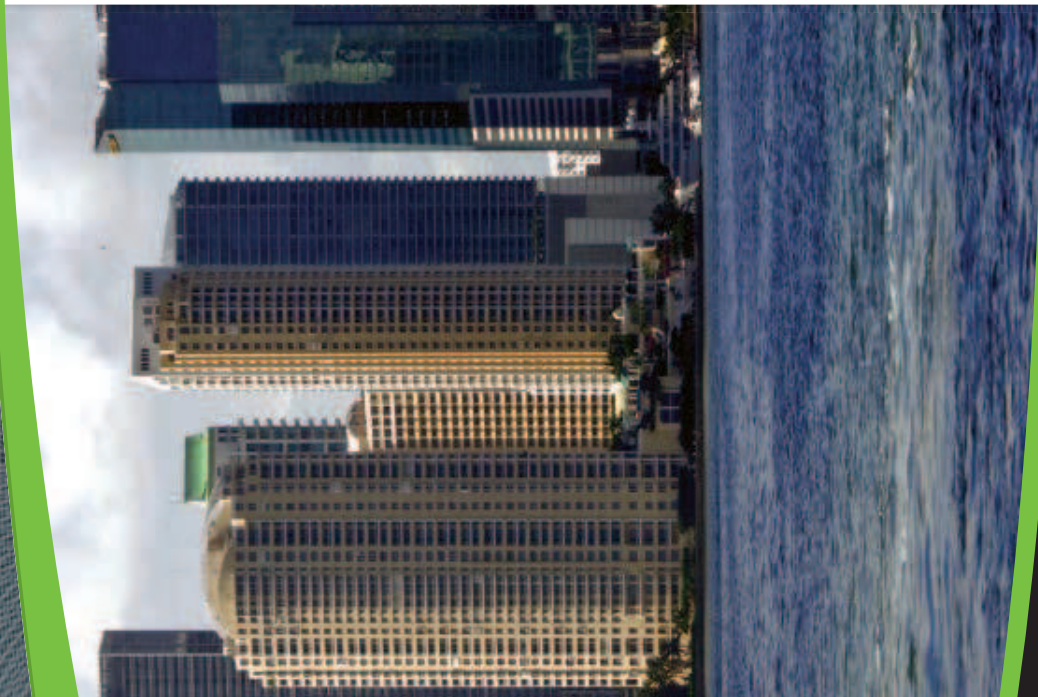


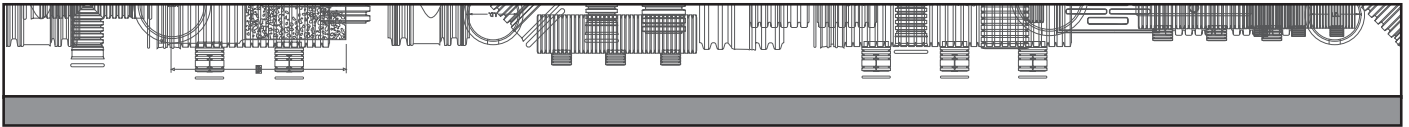


# Septic Stack System Florida Installation Manual



Version July 11, 2014  
Approved Florida Department of Health, Onsite Sewage Programs  
July 14, 2014





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## I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of an onsite septic system is to collect and treat the wastewater from a home or establishment and then disperse the effluent (water) into the soil, which further treats and cleans it to a standard that minimizes or eliminates contaminants. The septic tank or primary treatment device separates the solids and sends the effluent to the drainfield. The purpose of the drainfield is to store and disperse the effluent from the primary treatment unit into the soil.

Early drainfields used stone gravel to create a void space. Then clay tiles were added to increase storage capacity. Centuries later the tiles were replaced with clay pipes and eventually to black, high density polyethylene (HDPE) corrugated pipe.

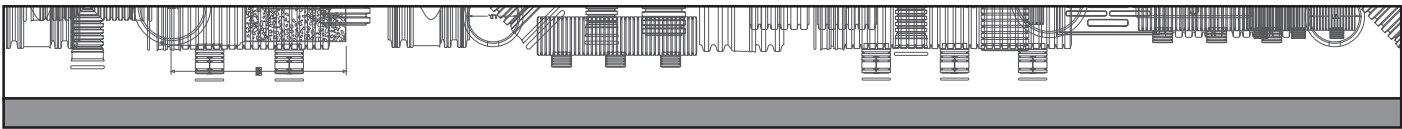
Within the last few decades, as our lifestyles have changed, it has become necessary to improve upon the efficiency and function of these stone systems. Drainfield requirements have become larger while available areas have become smaller.

The ADS Septic Stack systems were developed to offer a common sense approach to this need, while offering substantial advantages over stone drainfields.

The Septic Stack system uses four-inch diameter corrugated polyethylene perforated pipes to create void space for storage, in lieu of stone. The capacity, distribution and the simplicity of installation are beneficial to the contractor and the end user. There are three Septic Stack systems for consideration: 9-pipe incorporates eight void pipes and one distribution pipe; 11-pipe uses ten void pipes and one distribution pipe; 13-pipe uses twelve void pipes and one distribution pipe. With the exception of packaging and square footage ratios, these systems are functionally equivalent when used for their intended purpose.

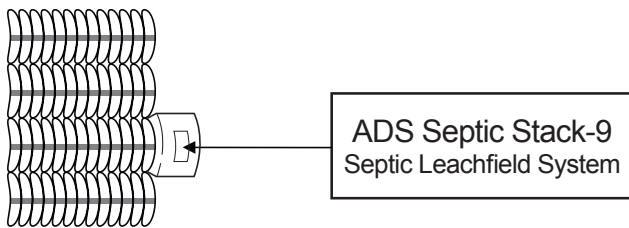
The Septic Stack systems function much like a trickle filter. The ADS distribution pipe disperses the effluent into and around the voids created by the specially-banded ADS void pipes. These void pipes were carefully designed with both holes and slots, allowing them to both collect and disperse the water as it passes over the thousands of corrugations in the pipe. They are strapped together to give the system strength.

ADS 9-pipe, 11-pipe, and 13-pipe systems are available only to licensed Septic Tank Professionals.

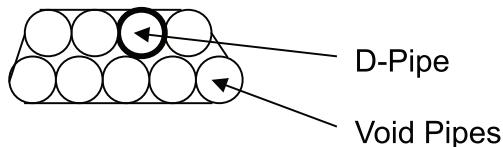


## II. SYSTEM SPECIFICATION

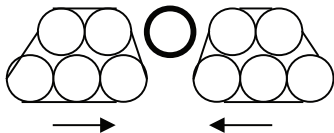
All ADS Septic Stack systems are currently composed of a standard ADS green-striped distribution pipe and bundled and strapped void pipes. A label is attached to the top of the bell of each ten-foot stick of each product.



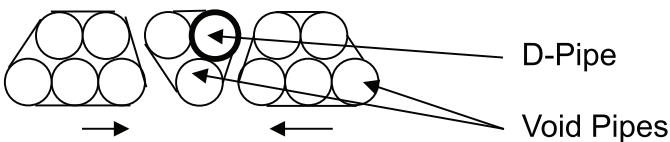
The 9-pipe system consists of 8 void pipes and a distribution pipe. The void pipes are bundled in 5 and 3. The distribution pipe is included within and the entire unit is strapped together to make one exceptionally strong part. The distribution pipe includes a snap type bell end that extends past the void pipes in order to make connection to other sections.



The 11-pipe system consists of two bundles of 5 void pipes and a single distribution pipe field-installed in the gap created by the void pipe bundles.



The 13-pipe system consists of two bundles of 5 void pipes and a bundle of 2 void pipes and a distribution pipe that is field-installed in between the two 5-pipe bundles. The distribution pipe is placed in the upper portion of the three.

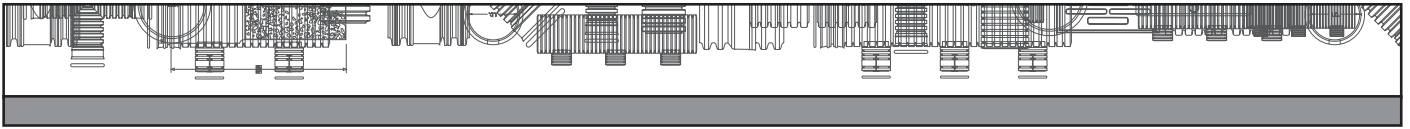


Each of the Septic Stack systems is approved for use according to specific State guidelines. Application and credit for their use is at least equal to that of a conventional system. Many states will allow for a reduction in drainfield sizing.

**Height** of the 9-pipe, 11-pipe, and 13-pipe systems is 8.6" with the invert 4.3". This compares to 12" of stone and an invert of 6". This 28% saving in height allows for either greater water table separation or shallower installations.

**Width** of the 9-pipe, 11-pipe, and 13-pipe systems are different: the 9-pipe system is 23.12", while the 11-pipe system is 27.75". The 13-pipe system is 32.37". The difference in width, compared to 36" of stone, is approximately 36% smaller for the 9-pipe, 23% for the 11-pipe system and 10% for the 13-pipe system.

The water storage capacity of the Septic Stack systems is substantially greater than that of a stone system. The typical stone system will hold 7.5 gallons of water per foot. The 9-pipe will hold 8.9 gallons. The 11-pipe will hold 10.9 gallons. The 13-pipe will hold 12.9 gallons. This can be crucial during periods of high demand or saturated soils due to heavy rains.



### III. DESIGN CRITERIA

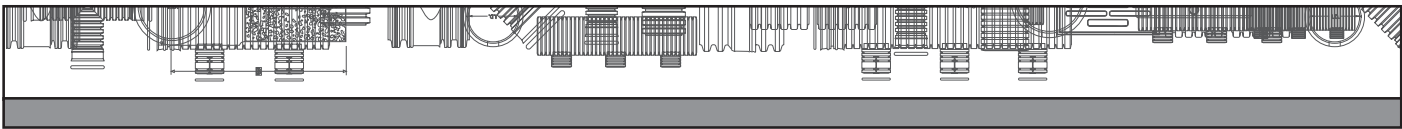
The ADS Septic Stack systems are designed to be installed in trench or bed configurations, in subsurface, filled, mounded, gravity fed, pumped and pressure dosed systems.

While a level or relatively flat system installation is preferred, on sloping lots the use of steps, drop boxes or other dependable distribution methods are common.

System sizing is accomplished by first having a site evaluation performed by a qualified professional Engineer, soil specialist, or local Health Department. After a permit has been issued, and the plot plan shows the intended drainfield, a simple ratio calculation can be done. Use the recommended square footage as the basis for length, width, and the total number of trenches. A level or relatively flat system installation is preferred. On sloping lots, the use of steps, drop boxes or other dependable distribution methods is recommended. The installation of all distribution lines (non-header) on sloping lots should be perpendicular to the grade. Some states or codes require that the distal ends of the distribution pipes be connected to form a continuous loop. Check local codes.

NOTE: Depending upon the Septic Stack system used, and the criteria, the following may apply:

The Septic Stack systems are narrower than a 36" wide trench, but credited for the full 36 inches. For instance, in Florida, the 36% reduction in width of the 9-pipe will allow these systems to be placed on 47.2" on center in trenches including 24' separation, or 23.1" o.c. in bed configuration.



## IV. INSTALLATION

The ADS Septic Stack systems are to be installed according to the prevailing codes, but within the limitations of height and width inherent in their design. Some County codes will require adjustment in designs. The preferable application is in trenches, but properly designed and executed beds are both acceptable and common practice.

The soil is excavated or filled according to code with the invert approximately 4-1/4" from the soil interface.

The ground is leveled or sloped according to code and the pipes are laid in.

The distribution pipe is the the only pipe connected to a d-box or header manifold as in a conventional system.

The Septic Stack systems can be laid in any configuration recognized in a conventional system. The void pipes should be viewed as the aggregate.

The 9-pipe, 11-pipe, and 13-pipe systems may be connected to the septic tank by means of a distribution box or header manifold, using FDOH approved pipe such as 4" ADS 3000 TripleWall, 4" PVC SDR 35, 3034, and 4" PVC Sewer and Drain fittings, or PVC lateral pipes designed for a pressure dosed system. Check local codes for connection regulations.

When required, the tail pipe for looping (continuous circuit) should consist of ADS solid corrugated pipe if it is installed outside of the drainfield area. If installed within the system, the top row of void pipes shall be cut 5 inches in and a distribution pipe shall be connected to the system distribution pipe with ADS snap tees and elbows, making a continuous circuit. All fittings then should be manufactured by ADS. See header and tail piping section.

The use of an ADS end cap for the distal ends of the distribution pipe is acceptable in subsurface installations of trenches under most State codes.

### HEADERS/TAILOPIPE

Header pipe systems are used either because of their convenience or to avoid the 1" drop built into many Distribution Boxes.

A header manifold must be supported by soil and then connected to the distribution pipe of each drain line.

### ANGLES

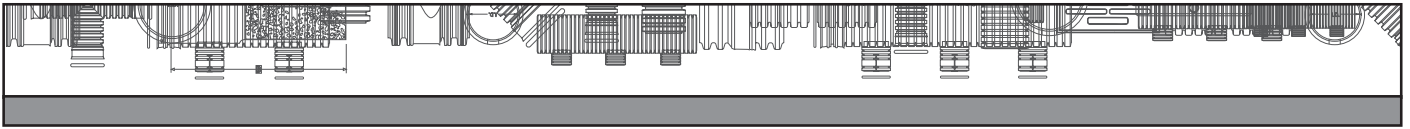
Right angles can be run either direction, with the open end of the pipe of one or more lines in a section butting up to the side of the pipes running perpendicular to them. These open ends do not need to be covered with Septic Filter Fabric because they do not open directly to a soil interface but rather to other pipes. Then, as in the header pipe described above, the top layer of meeting pipes are cut to allow for connection of the distribution pipe.

The Septic Stack systems have a lot of flexibility and can be shaped and bent up to the point of crimping the pipe. However, where gaps of more than a few inches occur as a result of bending the pipes, short sections or pieces of pipe should be inserted to stabilize the system and provide continuity.



### LOW PRESSURE DOSING SYSTEMS

When a low pressure dosing system is required, a snap end cap shall be installed on the inlet and distal ends of the distribution pipes with a hole drilled at the bottom to accept the PVC lateral pipe. Select a hole saw the size of the outside diameter of the specified PVC pipe. The PVC lateral will enter the inlet end and exit the distal end, with the nozzles of the lateral pipe facing in the 12:00 position. Be sure to include a clean-out on the distal ends of the PVC laterals.



### **ADS SEPTIC FILTER FABRIC**

The open ends of the 4" void pipes must be first covered with any FDOH approved filter fabric. ADS Septic Filter Fabric is resistant to a wide variety of soil and pH conditions and is recommended where the open ends are directly exposed to the soil. This is done by placing the septic filter fabric just under the end of the bottom pipes and then covering it with two layers of cloth. The finished system must then be completely covered with a single layer of filter fabric in such a way that both the top and sides are protected from soil intrusion. It should be placed over the sides in such a way that it drapes down, covering at least the top layer of pipes. The Septic Filter Fabric should not be tucked under the bottom row of pipes, so that the water can escape should the filter cloth become clogged over time.

### **CONNECTIVE DEVICES**

The Septic Stack systems are designed to be used with all approved connective devices, whether they are a header pipe, low pressure dosing pipe, distribution box or a single line from an aerobic tank. Distribution boxes and a full line of pipe line fittings are available from ADS.

### **BACKFILL**

Complete the backfill of the Septic Stack system with native soil or select fill to a minimum 6 inches or depth specified in the system design and as required by the FDOH permit. Backfill material must be clean and void of rocks and debris, as they may eventually impinge on the system. As common practice, avoid driving any equipment over the system prior to final backfill. When installed with a minimum of 12 inches of cover, after consolidation, the ADS Septic Stack system meets the requirements for AASHTO H-10 (16,000 lbs/axle), however, Florida regulations prohibit vehicular traffic over the drainfield system.

These instructions should be used for general information. The permitting authority and State laws, codes and rules determine specific sizing criteria and system suitability. Please consult your State or local Health Department before considering these systems.

Each and every contractor must be licensed to install septic drainfields in his State. These systems are not designed for homeowner installation, as they require strict grade control. This document should not be used in instances where conflict with an existing code, law, or administrative policy exists.

### **DEFINITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS**

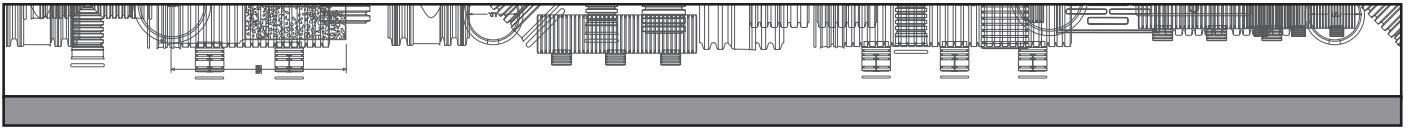
#### **D-Pipe**

A perforated effluent distribution pipe whose nominal inside diameter is equal to four inches. It includes a snap-fit bell that extends past the V-Pipes for connection, end-to-end, with other Septic Stack units, i.e. the void pipes are 10 feet and the D-Pipe is 10 feet, 2 inches (approx.).

This pipe is equipped with a top-centered reference line (a green stripe) and two rows of half-inch to three-quarter-inch holes along the bottom edges. The holes are spaced 45° to 60° from the bottom-center line of the pipe.

#### **V- Pipe**

A pipe that contains a minimum open area, via perforations or slots, of no less than six square inches per foot of pipe. Slots and holes are used. There are eighty-two such perforations, whose open area is greater than six square inches per foot. The perforation type, placement and frequency are designed to achieve the desired open area while maintaining a minimum of 40% of the original pipe's strength.



### **Header Pipe**

A header pipe is a conduit used to distribute effluent from the primary treatment receptacle's (septic tank, pump tank or ATU) outlet device to the receiving D-pipes within the absorption trenches or bed. The header pipe is used in lieu of a distribution box. A header pipe is generally easier to configure, level and adjust for the even distribution of effluent to all receiving lines in a gravity or pressure-dosed system.

### **D-Box**

A distribution box is a device normally constructed of a durable material whose purpose is to distribute effluent received from the primary treatment receptacle's (septic tank or ATU) outlet device. The effluent flows through a solid (non-perforated) connecting pipe to the inlet side of the distribution box. The effluent is then distributed evenly to all connected field lines.

### **Septic Stack**

The name for the 9-, 11- and 13-pipe stone replacement systems. The 9-pipe system is used in trench widths of 24 inches. The 11-pipe system is normally used in trench widths of 36 inches.

### **Drainfield Geotextile**

The synthetic cloth material used to prevent soil migration into the pipes or rock.

### **Outlet Device**

Many specifications require a vented elbow, extended tee, outlet filter or a solids deflection device on the outlet side of the primary treatment receptacle. Some specifications require an inlet device as well.

ADS "Terms and Conditions of Sale" are available on the ADS website, [www.ads-pipe.com](http://www.ads-pipe.com)  
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