Town of North Hempstead

Department of Building Safety, Inspection & Enforcement

210 Plandome Road, Manhasset, NY 11030-2326

www.northhempsteadny.gov

Understanding Your Septic System

This sheet is not official, and is for informational purposes only. All facts or requirements may change. Any questions should be directed to the Permit division of the Town of North Hempstead or the Plumbing Inspector for your area.

Components of Your Septic System

This will depend on the age of your home. Prior to 1973, the system will probably consist of a conduit, called the main line, leading from the house to one or more cesspools (or leaching pools).

After 1973, "septic tanks" came into widespread use. They are situated on the main line between the house and the leaching pool(s).

Old cesspools (or leaching pools) are pits which were made of concrete, brick or cement block walls that may collapse and have to be replaced. When the cesspool only system collapses and no septic tank exists, an entirely new system of septic tank and leaching pool(s) must be installed. IMPORTANT: If an old cesspool (without a septic tank existing) collapses in your front or back yard, a new septic system must be installed in your front yard, if possible. In such a case, the interior drainage piping must be reversed by a plumber licensed in the town of North Hempstead to have the waste piping flow to the front of the home into the new septic system.

What is the Difference between a Cesspool and a Septic Tank?

A septic tank is a chamber through which all waste water from the home passes. The tank collects the water and allows the heavier solids to sink to the bottom, and in the process, forming a semi-solid sludge. Lighter solids, such as soap, grease and oil rises to the top and forms "scum". Natural bacterial action works on the solids, helping to break them down.

The septic tank's design keeps the solids from flowing out with the residual liquid, called "grey water", which then flows into the (leaching pool or field) drainage area where it leeches into the soil. This grey water flows into the (leaching pool or field) and drains or "percolates" into the soil through perforated walls.

Where is Your System Located?

In some cases, there may be a diagram of the system in your property records; the septic tank indicated by a rectangle and the cesspool by a circle. If your home was built after 1975, there may be a copy on file with the town building or county health department. In some cases, septic tank and cesspool covers are visible in the field. If the cesspool is buried beneath a lawn, there is often a tell-tale, circular area of deep green and luxuriant growth directly over it.

The plumbing inside your house can indicate the general area in which the buried components of the system lay. Look for a large pipe (4" in diameter) that protrudes through the foundation. This is the waste or sewer line and the septic tank and/or cesspools are located somewhere along this pipe outside the house. This will give you an indication as to where the system is in relation to the house. Using the following information, supplied by the **Nassau County Department of Health**, you can make an educated guess as to where everything is. Nassau County can confirm if you live in a district with sewers. If so, you may be able to connect to the sewer system. Their number is 516-571-9602.

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General Requirements

- The closest a septic tank or cesspool may be to the foundation of the house is 10 feet.
- The cesspool must be at least 100 feet from private wells supplying water to the house. Septic tanks must be at least 75 feet from wells, 20' from drywells.
- Septic systems must be at least 10 feet inside all property lines.
- Septic systems must be at least 15 feet from storm drains.

If the exact location of your system still eludes you, it's a good idea to have professionals locate the system for you.

A permit is required for the new system, and as per the above, a plumber may have to take out a permit to reverse the piping if required. Other rules or requirements may apply. Please check with the building department if you have any questions.

Before your contractor digs, it is mandatory by law that he calls **DIG SAFELY** by dialing 811. They mark-out where all the power, sewer, gas and water lines are located on your property. The website is: http://www.digsafelynewyork.com.Please leave several days for this to be done. They will inform you as to the timing.

Other Town or Nassau County laws may apply with regard to requirements for a permit. Check the requirements on the Town's Multi-purpose plumbing application. In general, for a new system, Nassau County Ordinance requires installation in the front of the home, if possible.

TABLE 3

MINIMUM DISTANCES AND CLEARANCES

(ALL DISTANCES ARE EDGE TO EDGE DIFEET)

	From. Edge of			
	Septic Tank to:	Leaching Pools to:	Tile (4) Field to:.	Drywell
Property line Road	10	10	10	10
property line Leaching	10	10	10	10
pools	5	10 (1)	10 (1)	20
Water service line	10	10	10	10
Building wall	10	20	20	20
Dry wells (2) .	20	20	20	20
Septic tank		5	5	5
Well -	100	150	100	150
Water main easement	7	7	7	7
Storm drain easement	15	15	15	15
Sewer easement	15	15	15	15
Surface waters	100	100	100	100
Drainage reserve areas and/or Recharge Basins (3)	20	20	20	20

(1) Ten feet or.1 1/2 times the-effective depth, whichever is greater. Maximum separation required is 20 feet.

(2) Including roof and driveway.

(3) .All separation distances shall be measured from the boundary or fence line.

(4) All separation distances shall be measured to the outer boundary of the tile field.

TABLE 4

Realty Subdivisions*- Sizing Requirements

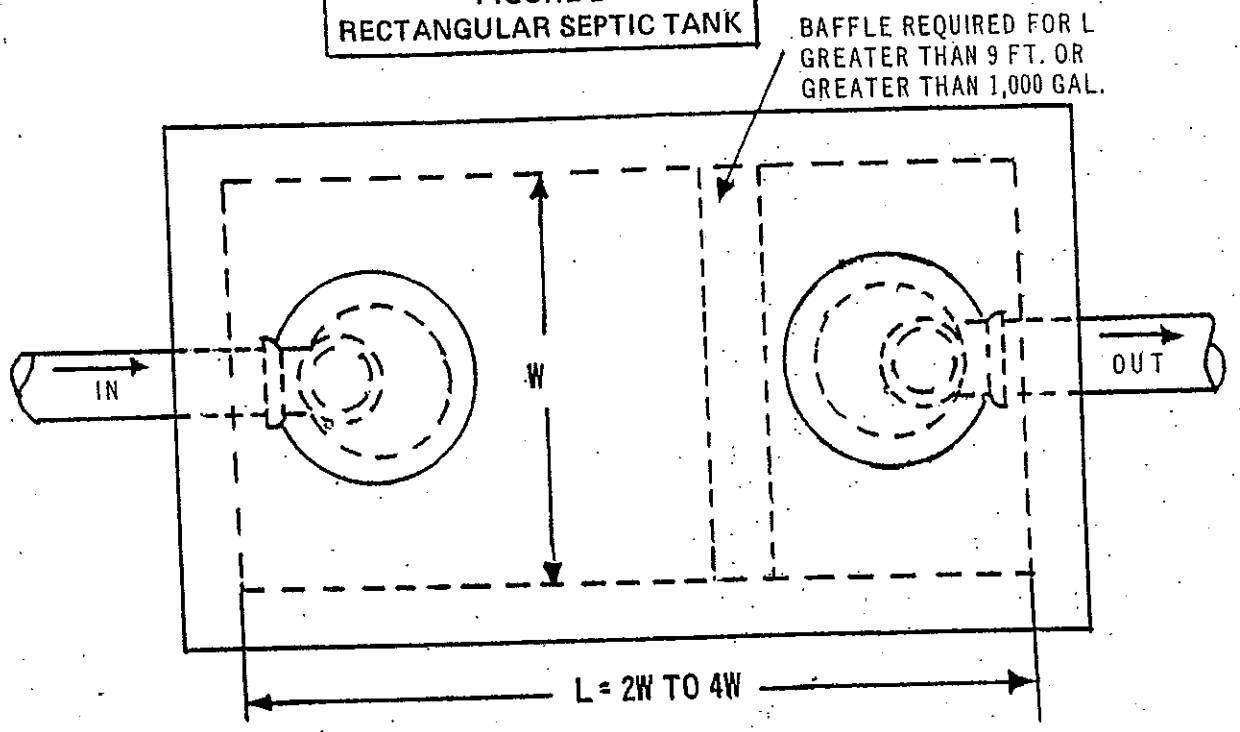
No. of Bedrooms	Single Family Dwelling 1-3	4	5	6	Each Additional Bedroom	Two Family (3 over 3)
Required Septic Tank Capacity (gallons)	1,000	1,250	1,500	1,750	+250	2000
Required Daily Leaching Capabilities (gal./day)	450	600	750	900	+150	4800

Lots less than or equal to one (1) acre: The on-site sewage disposal shall be designed for a minimum of a five (5) bedroom unit unless a smaller system can be substantiated by the project consultant to the NCDH prior to installation of the sanitary system. In no event, shall the 'system.be designed for less than a four (4) bedroom unit,

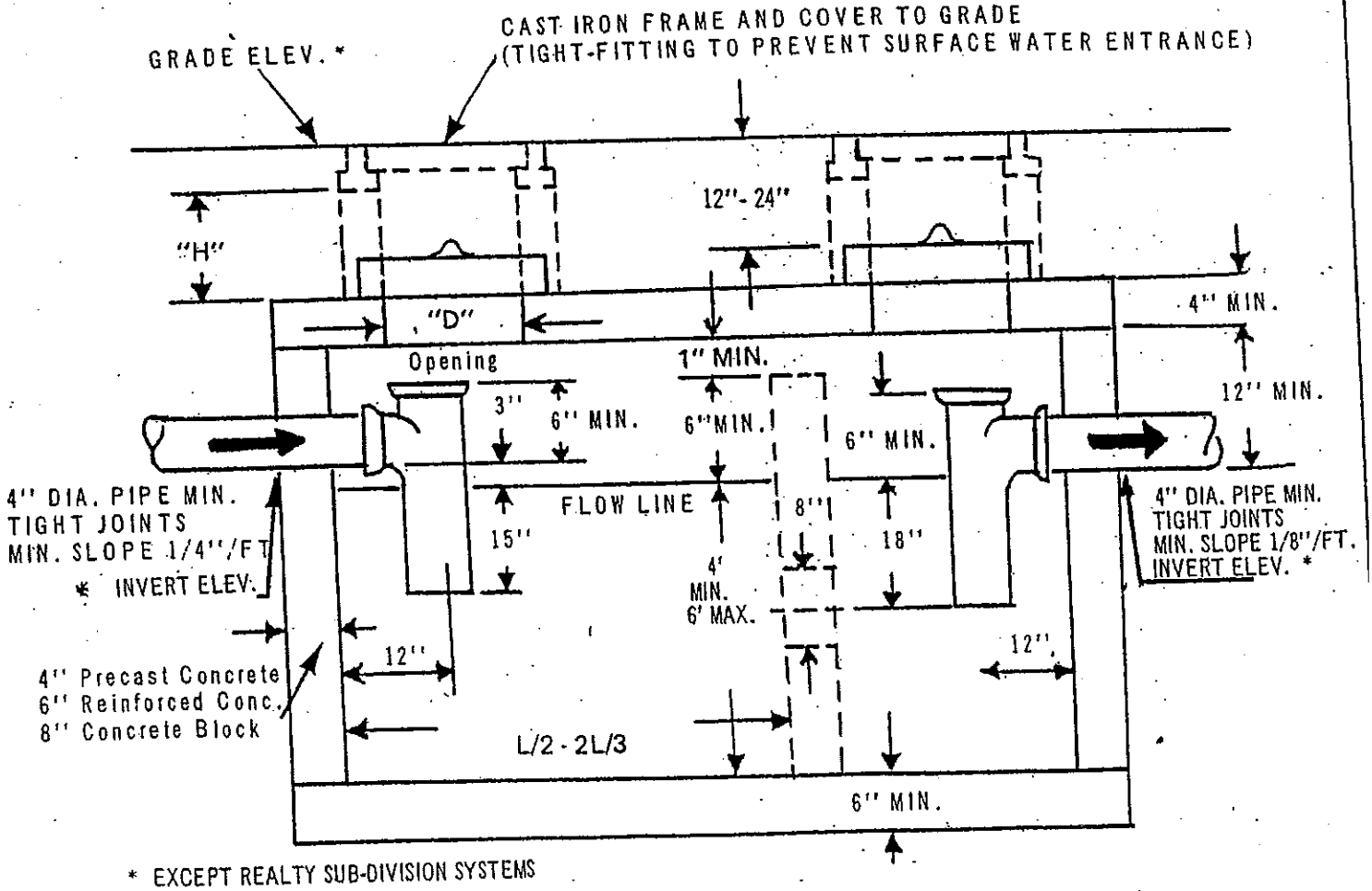
Lots greater than one (1) acre: The on-site sewage disposal shall be designed for a minimum of a six (6) bedroom unit unless a smaller system can be substantiated by the project consultant to the NCDH prior to installation of the sanitary system. In no event, shall the system be designed for less than a five (5) bedroom unit.

* For other than residential installations, refer to Table 5 in the Nassau County On-site Sewage Manual.

FIGURE 2
RECTANGULAR SEPTIC TANK

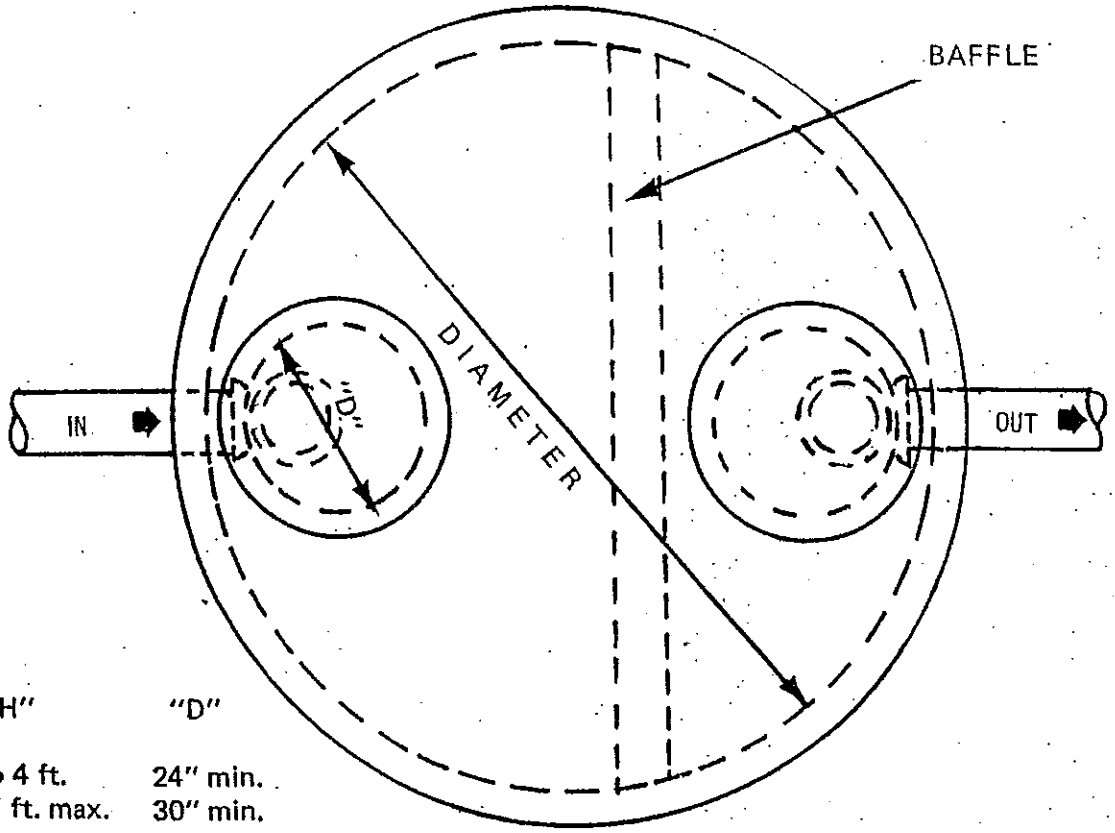


"H"	"D"
up to 4 ft.	24" min.
4 ft. to 7 ft. max.	30" min.



* EXCEPT REALTY SUB-DIVISION SYSTEMS

FIGURE 3
CIRCULAR SEPTIC TANK



"H"	"D"
up to 4 ft.	24" min.
4 ft. to 7 ft. max.	30" min.

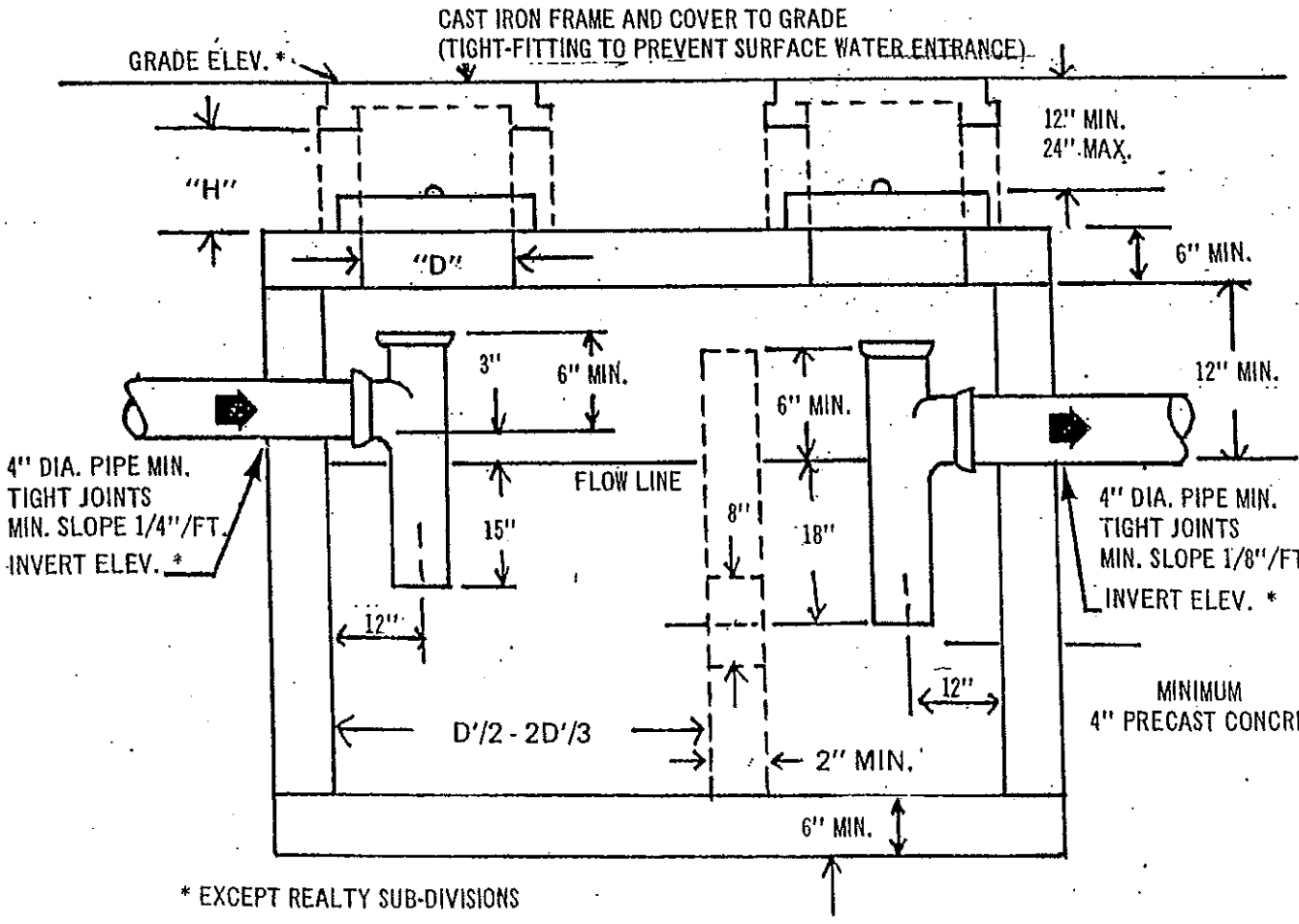
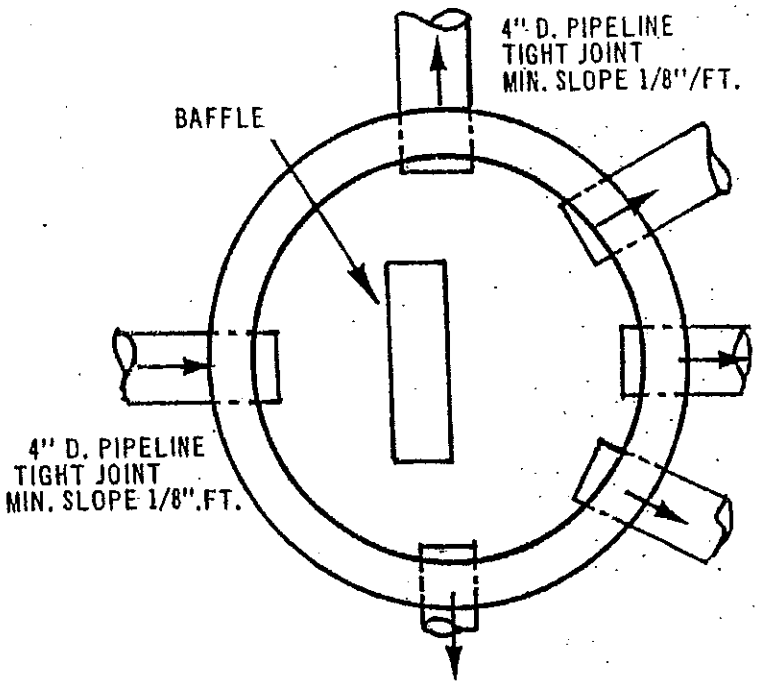


FIGURE 4
DISTRIBUTION DEVICES (DISTRIBUTION BOX)



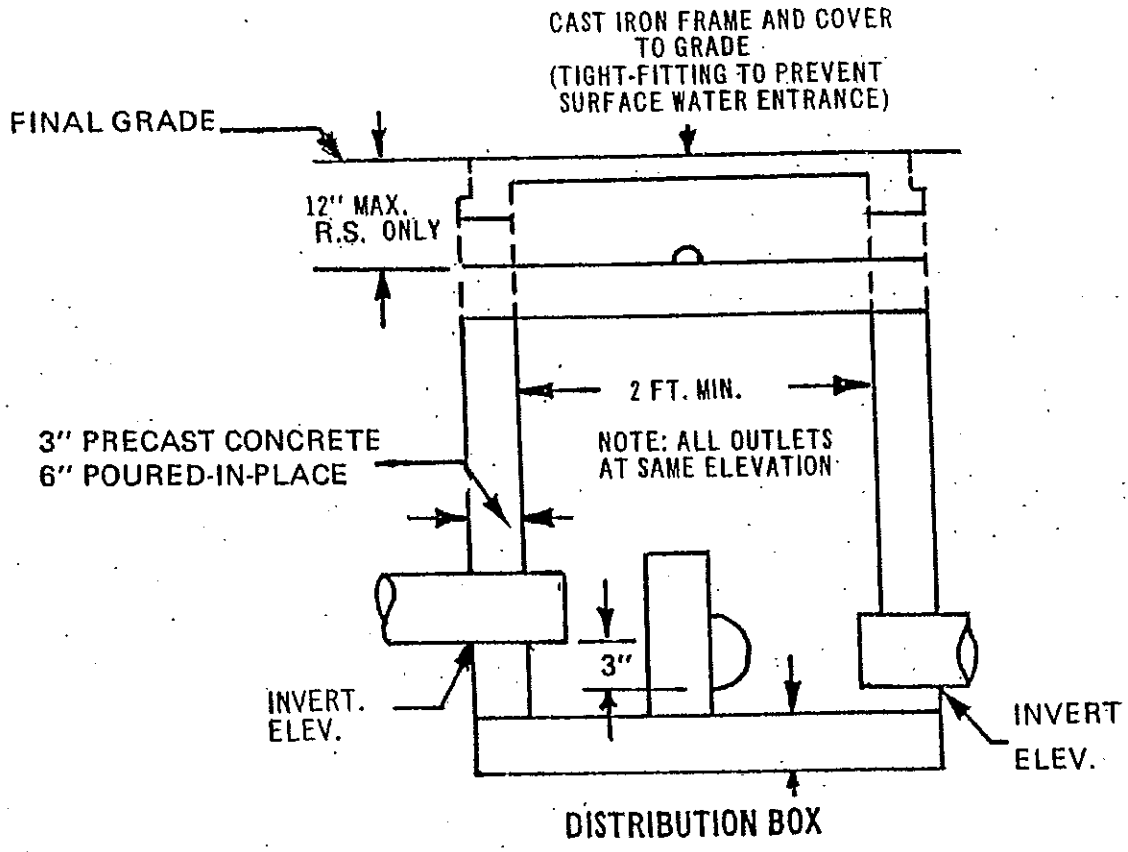
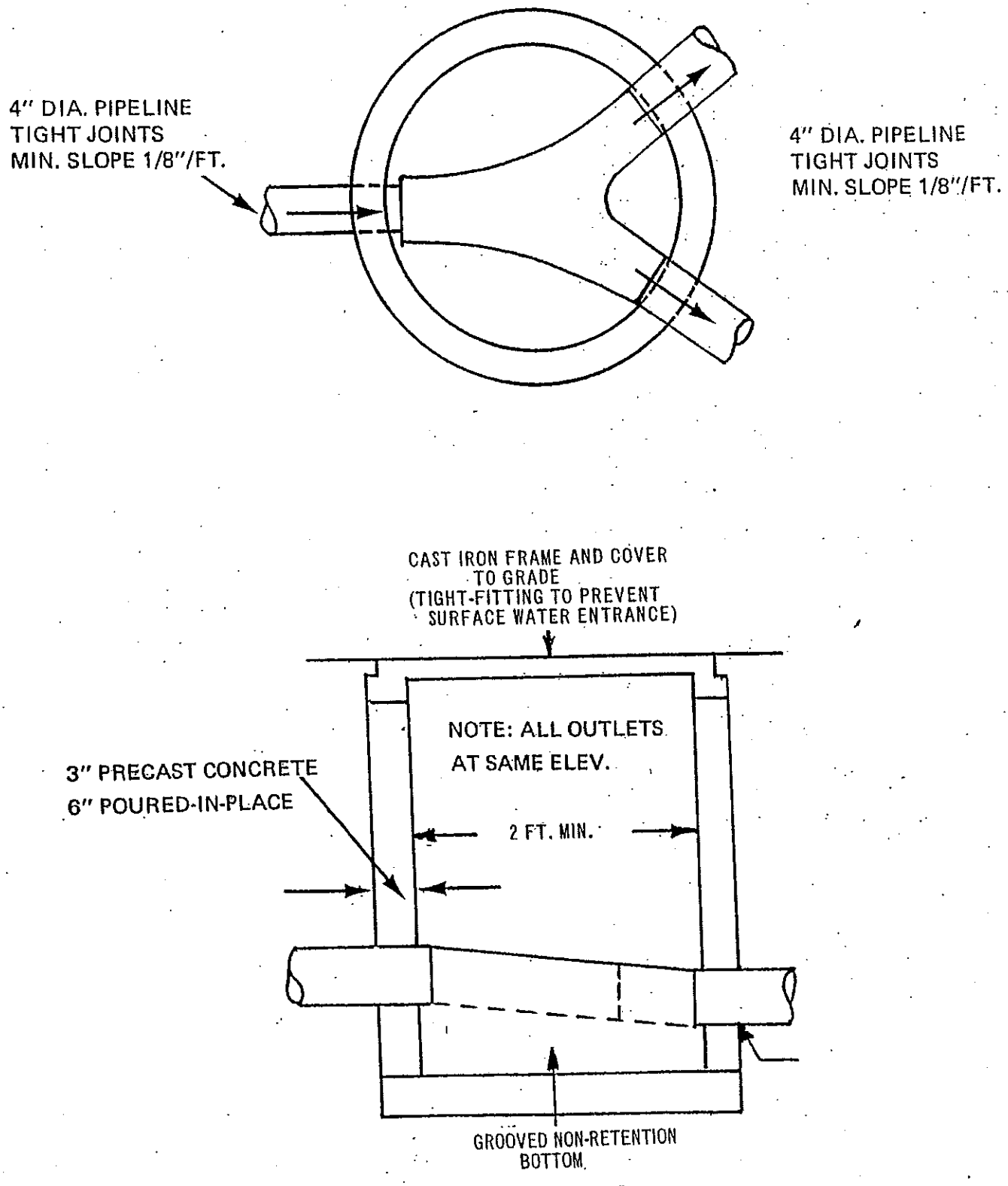


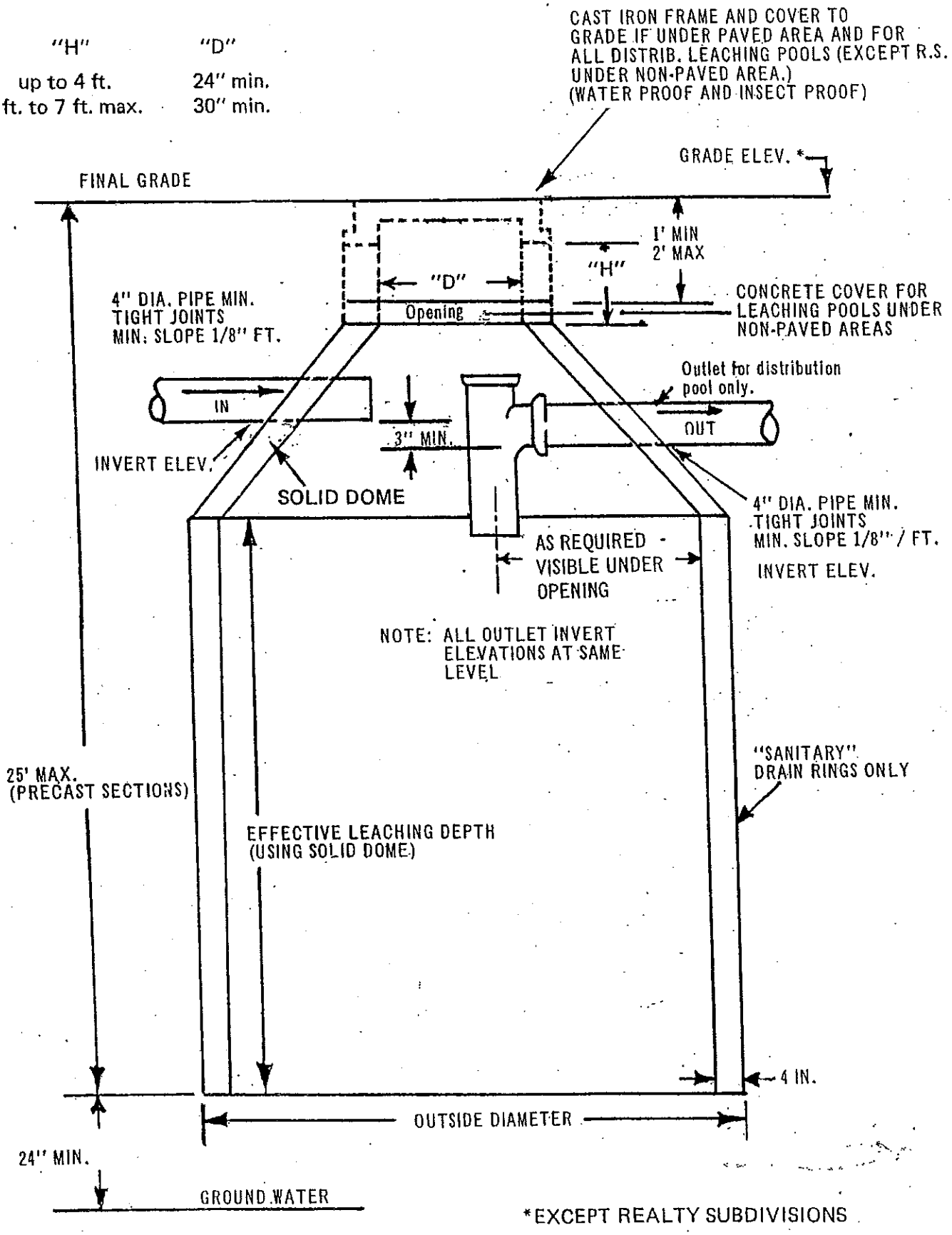
FIGURE 5
DISTRIBUTION DEVICES (EQUAL FLOW DIVERSION BOX)



EQUAL FLOW DIVERSION BOX

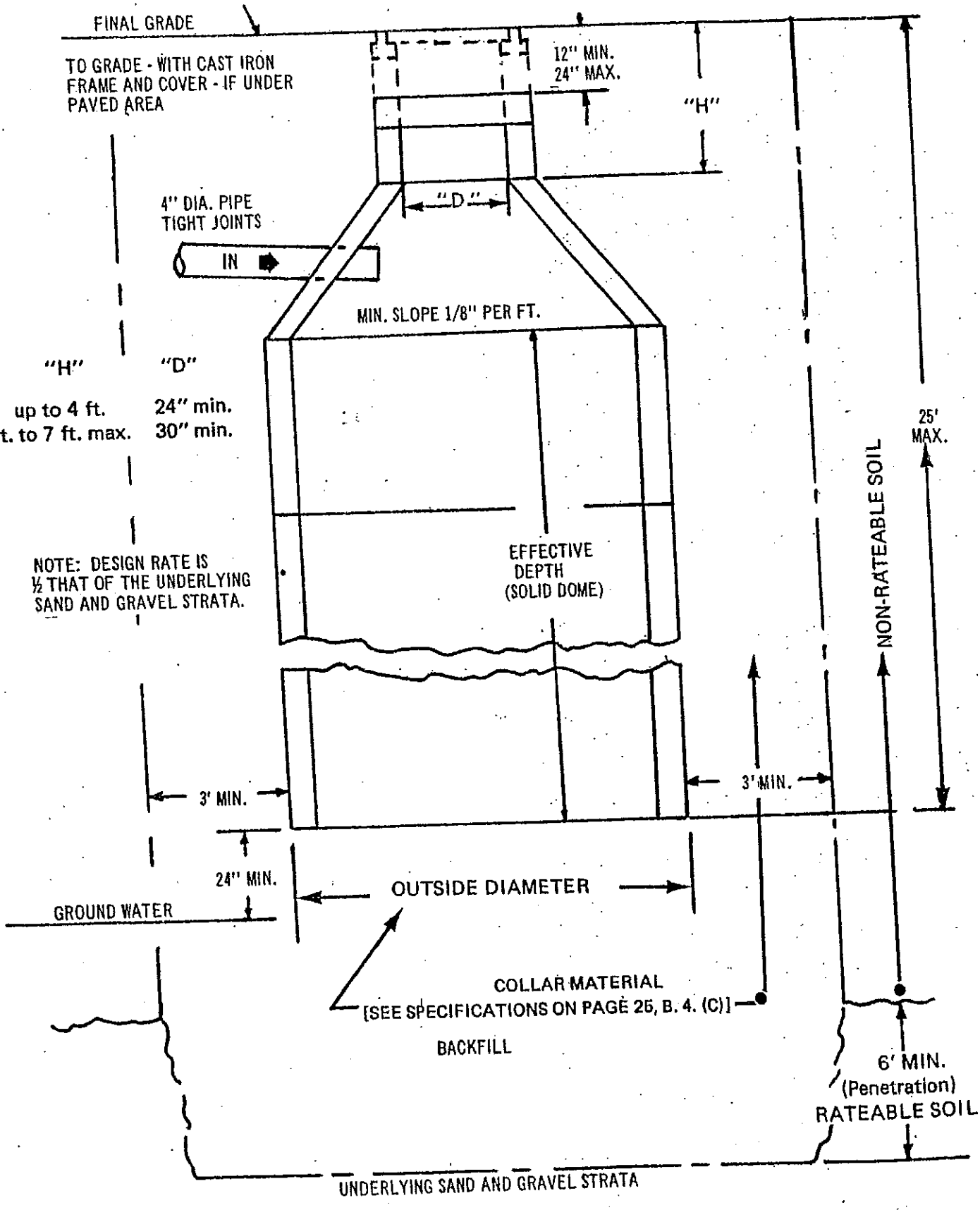
FIGURE 6
LEACHING POOL AND DISTRIBUTION LEACHING POOL

"H"	"D"
up to 4 ft.	24" min.
4 ft. to 7 ft. max.	30" min.



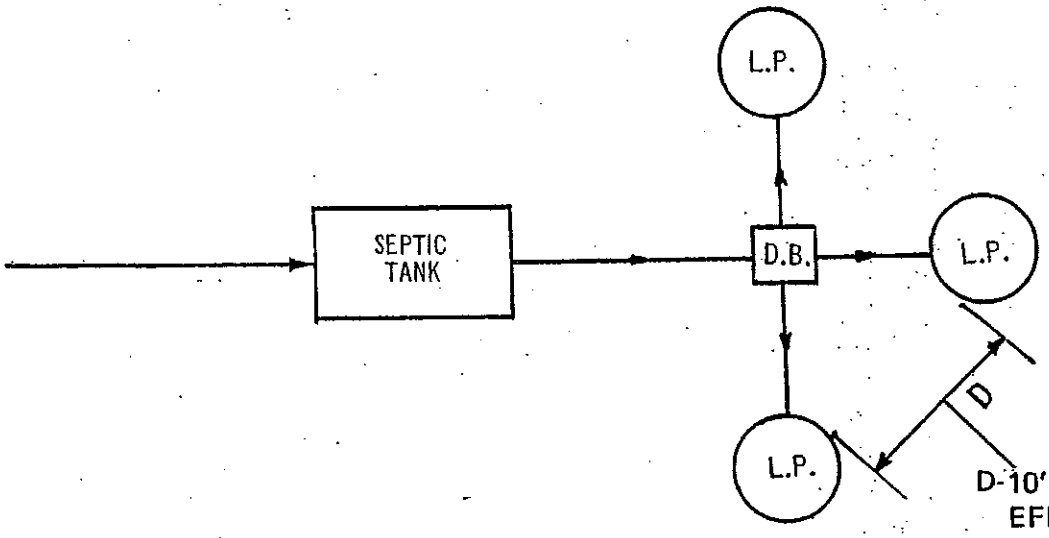
*EXCEPT REALTY SUBDIVISIONS

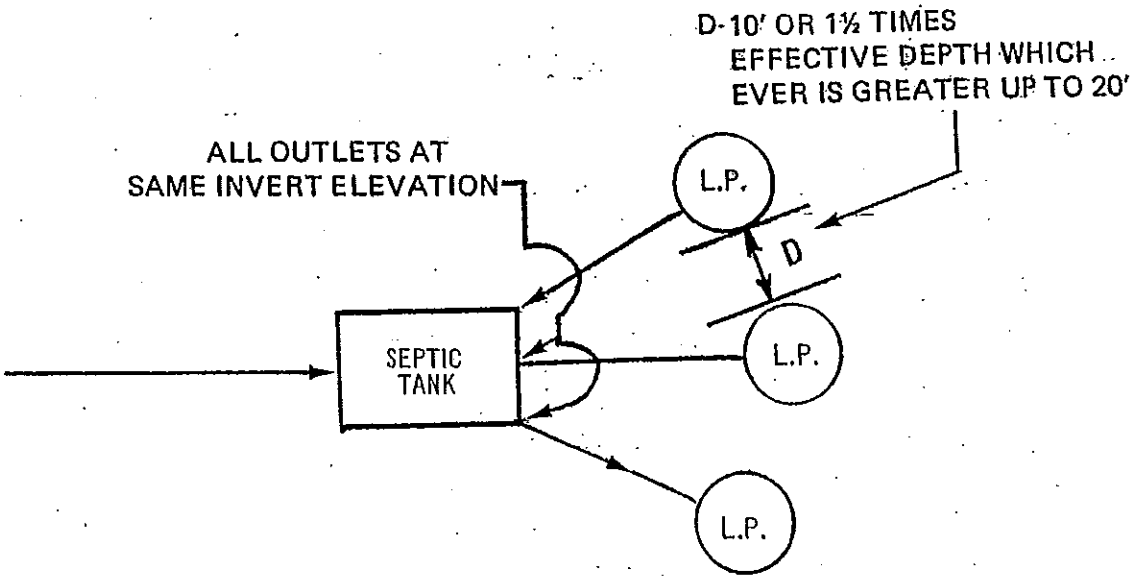
FIGURE 7
LEACHING POOL COLLARED SAND AND GRAVEL



*EXCEPT REALTY SUBDIVISIONS

FIGURE 8
ARRANGEMENTS - MULTIPLE LEACHING POOLS
(SMALL NUMBER OF MULTIPLE POOLS)

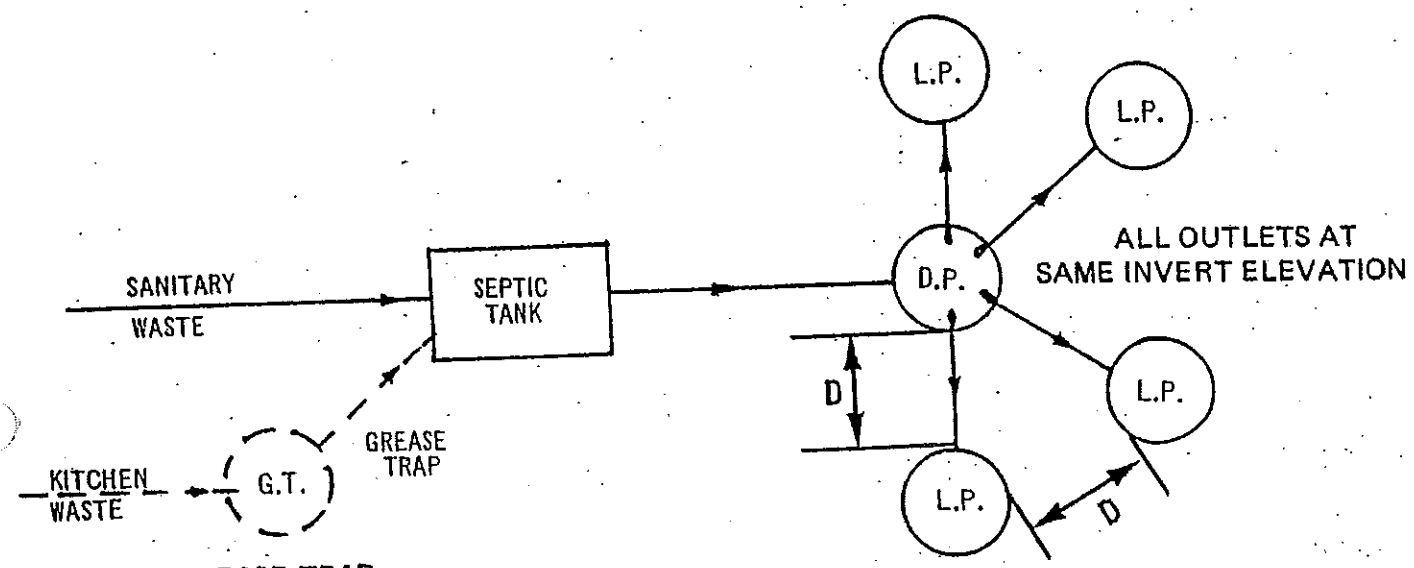




D.B. - DISTRIBUTION BOX

L.P. - LEACHING POOL

FIGURE 9
ARRANGEMENTS - MULTIPLE LEACHING POOLS
(MORE THAN 4 POOLS USING LEACHING POOL FOR DISTRIBUTION)



G.T. - GREASE TRAP

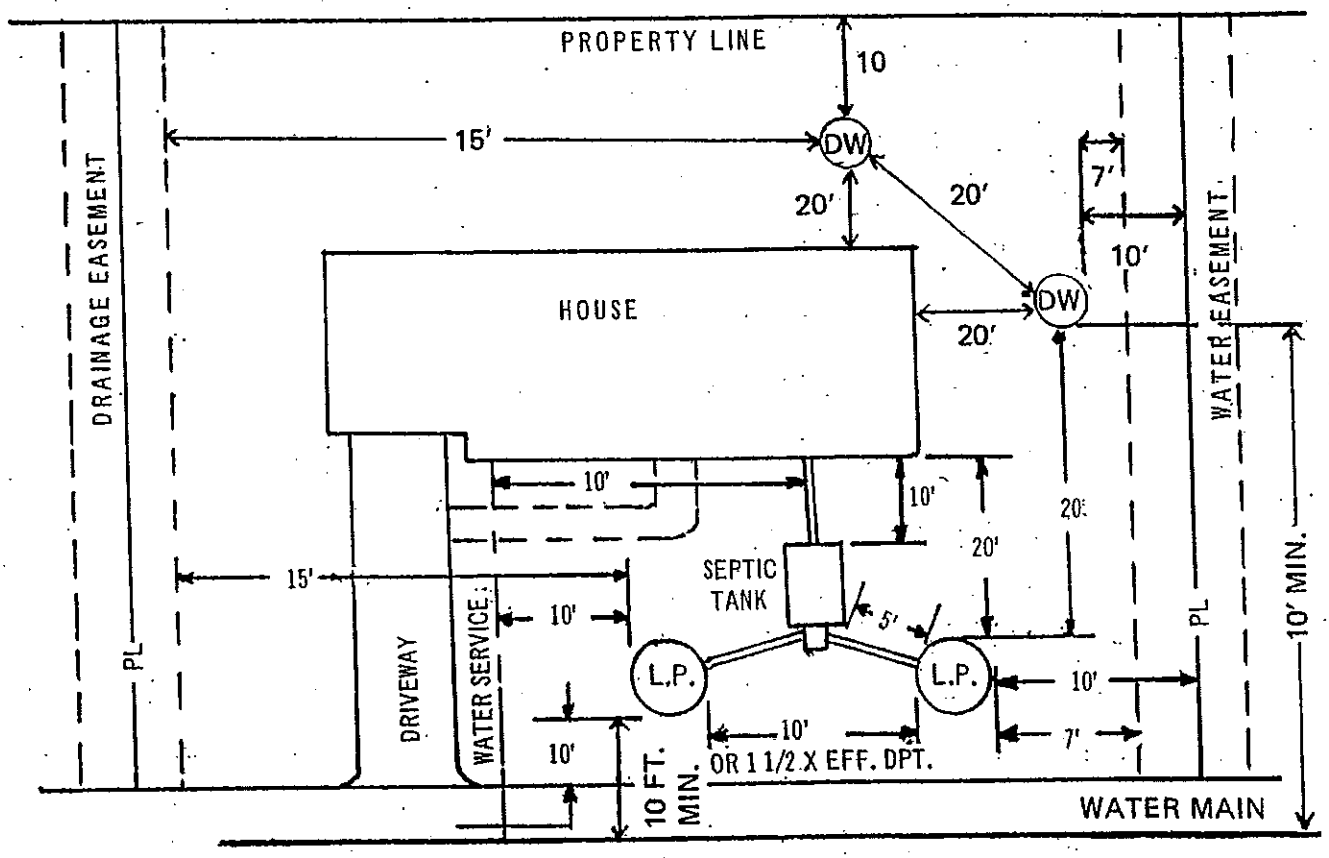
D.B. - DISTRIBUTION BOX

D.P.- DISTRIBUTION LEACHING POOL

L.P. - LEACHING POOL

D-10' OR 1½ TIMES
EFFECTIVE DEPTH WHICH
EVER IS GREATER UP TO 20'

FIGURE 11
PLOT PLAN - TYPICAL LEACHING POOLS



L.P. - LEACHING POOL
D.W. - DRYWELL