

# PROPERTIES WITH SEPTIC SYSTEMS WITHIN THE CITY OF BEND: FAQs

## What does it mean for sewer to be *physically available*?

A sewer system is considered physically available if topographic or man-made features do not make connection physically impractical and it meets the distance requirements noted in the table below:

# of dwelling units*	1	2	3	4	5	6+
Physically available distance to sewer connection point (equal to or less than)	300 feet	400 feet	600 feet	800 feet	1000 feet	DEQ Agent Determination

\*A dwelling unit is a single family dwelling or other establishment with a maximum projected daily sewage flow not exceeding 899 gallons.

## What does it mean for sewer to be *legally available*?

If the City of Bend is willing or obligated to provide sewer service, then sewer is considered legally available.

## I would like to make alterations to my existing septic system or install a new septic system. What do I do?

First, you will need a Building Permit Release/Septic Authorization form from the City of Bend's permit center stating that sewer is not physically and legally available to the property. Once City staff sign the form, include it with your County Onsite Wastewater System Application.

## What do I do with my septic tank and drainfield if I am connecting to sewer?

Drainfields should be left intact and should not be excavated for at least one year after the last use. Septic tanks must be decommissioned. Obtain a Tank Abandonment Form from Deschutes County and schedule an inspection once the tank is decommissioned.

## Can I build an ADU on my property if sewer is not physically and legally available and I have a septic system?

It depends on the property. Most city lots on septic systems were created to serve one dwelling and there is not sufficient space for onsite wastewater infrastructure. At minimum there must be enough suitable soil and space to meet sizing requirements and setbacks for an initial and replacement septic system for the primary dwelling and an initial and replacement septic system for the ADU. These septic requirements are in addition to the City of Bend's ADU requirements.



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