



**Purpose**

To define requirements for proof of water and disposal of wastewater for new development within the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. Zoning amendment and building permit applications for residential purposes must meet the requirements of this Policy. This policy will be referenced in referral responses when subdivision referrals are received for comment from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Zoning amendments and building permit applications for other uses such as Tourist Commercial will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine appropriate water quantities. Water quality policies and wastewater disposal policies will apply.

**Policy**

**Drinking Water Requirements**

A parcel may be serviced by a community drinking water system, an individual ground water well, or surface water. These systems need to meet quantity and quality requirements for a zoning amendment to be approved or a building permit to be issued.

Where a large development is proposed to connect to an existing water system, water system improvements may be required to be carried out in collaboration with the owner of the system and the applicable Health Authority.

**Ground Water Requirements**

If the proposed source of water is an individual ground water well, proof of sufficient water is required. The Regional District requires:

- A report from a Qualified Professional or certified well installer stating that there is sufficient quantity of water to meet the below requirements:
  - A minimum of 2500 litres per day per proposed dwelling unit

Regular maintenance and testing of private wells are the responsibility of property owners.

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Policy Name: Proof of Drinking Water and Wastewater Disposal Policy	Policy No: 42-2025
Date of Approval: January 29, 2025	Dates of Amendment: N/A
Policies Superseded: 6.7 (Subdivision-Proof of Water)	Related Enactments: N/A

Proponents should ensure that ground water can be treated to potable water standards. At the time of Building Permit issuance, the SLRD requires written confirmation from a Qualified Professional that water can be treated to potable water standards. If an alternate solution is required, it must meet minimum health parameters set out in the Health Canada Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (CDWQ) and be a professionally engineered solution. Water quality testing must be done by laboratories approved by the Provincial Health Officer.

### **Surface Water Requirements**

Where parcels are to be serviced by surface water, the Regional District requires written confirmation from the responsible Ministry that unrecorded water (water in a stream or aquifer that is not licensed or reserved for other purposes) is available with a capacity of at least 2500 litres per day per dwelling unit, on a year-round basis. Each proposed parcel needs to have legal access to the surface water supply. Where surface water is proposed, owners and applicants will be required to apply for a Riparian Area Development Permit prior to beginning construction and comply with all regulations under the Riparian Areas Protection Regulation.

### **Community Drinking Water System**

A community drinking water system is a water system that services two or more dwelling units and is owned, operated and maintained by the Regional District, a strata corporation, municipality or an improvement district. For the purposes of drinking water systems, a single-family dwelling with a secondary suite is considered as one dwelling unit or a single connection.

The Regional District requires written confirmation from the operator of the community drinking water system that there is sufficient capacity for additional proposed connections. If the proposed residential use will be connected to a community drinking water system, the system must have a valid operating permit under the *Drinking Water Protection Act (DWPA)*.

### **Wastewater Disposal Requirements**

Proof of acceptable wastewater disposal is required prior to the Regional District considering a zoning amendment or issuance of a Building Permit. Wastewater is water that has been used in a home or a business, and includes sewage. This is required for any new development on a parcel.

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Proponents must demonstrate a primary and backup dispersal area based on a Type 1 system (septic tank and dispersal field) with a capacity sufficient for the proposed development. This is to prevent overdevelopment of a parcel and ensure long-term sustainability of development.

Acceptable disposal methods include the following: onsite wastewater/sewage treatment and disposal system and community wastewater/sewage collection and disposal systems. Onsite treatment and disposal system includes a septic tank and absorption field but does not include a holding tank, a pit privy, or a sand mound. Holding tanks, pit privies, and sand mounds are prohibited in the Regional District.

### **Onsite Treatment and Disposal System Requirements**

Where parcels are to be serviced by an onsite treatment and disposal system, a report stating that this type of system can be established on the subject parcel is required from an Authorized Person under the *Sewerage System Regulation*.

Where an existing onsite disposal system exists, the report should state that the system has adequate capacity to support additional proposed development.

### **Community Collection and Disposal System Requirements**

Where parcels are to be serviced by a community collection and disposal system, it must be designed and constructed under the supervision of a Qualified Professional and be approved by the authority having jurisdiction (applicable Health Authority or responsible Ministry depending on flows).

If proposed development is to connect to an existing community system, written confirmation from a Qualified Professional that the system has sufficient capacity is required.

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