



THURSTON COUNTY  
*Washington*  
Est. 1852

**Public Health & Social Services**  
**POLICY**

**Policy Title**

On-site Sewage System Interlacing Drainfields

**Number**

ONST.20.POL.847

**Effective Date**

05/01/2020

**Latest Approval Date**

05/01/2020

**Approved By**

Art Starry

**Next Review Date**

05/01/2026

**POLICY INTENT**

<b>Purpose</b>	Identifies conditions and criteria for the use of interlacing OSS drainfields	
<b>Scope</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal Only <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Impact to Citizens	
<b>Are Office/Department Documents on this subject permitted?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. The policy clarifies regulations used only by the Environmental Health Division (Article IV and WAC 246-272A)	<input type="checkbox"/> No

**POLICY STATEMENT**

- Interlacing is allowable for an OSS with a full-size trench drainfield
  - Site and soil characteristics will dictate distribution and dosing
  - Gravity distribution allowed where site and soil conditions allow
  - Interlacing is not allowed for Type I soil
- The reserve area must utilize full sized trenches and be shown between the installed (primary) disposal trenches
  - Reduced size primary or reserve areas utilizing alternative technology are not allowed
  - The reserve area must be shown between the trenches. Locating the reserve area(s) elsewhere is not allowed.
- Vertical separation dictates distance between pipes in active laterals

Vertical Separation (inches)	Distances Pipes Center to Center (feet)
At least 24	10
18 < 24	15
12 < 18	18

- Use of primary and reserve trenches must be alternated when both are installed

Soil Types	Alternate Fields Every
1 through 3	4 years
4 through 6	1 year

- Development, Subdivisions, and Minimum Land Requirements in Section 21, Article IV dictate the minimum lot size.
  - Interlacing cannot be used to justify smaller lots or increased development density

**DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS**

OSS	On-site sewage system
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