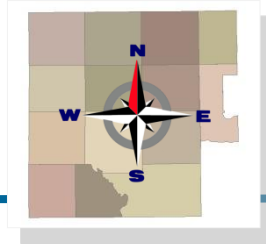


MARQUETTE COUNTY  
PLANNING, ZONING & LAND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

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## **PRIVY INFORMATION**

*Applications for privies do not require a plumber. The fee for a privy permit is \$200.00 and a separate \$30.00 payment for recording the agreement with the Register of Deeds.*

Privies are permitted in all unincorporated municipalities in Marquette County provided that a permit has been obtained and they are installed in a manner that meets the Marquette County Sanitary Ordinance. The following pages will help guide you through the selection, permitting, construction and care processes of your new privy. The following are pertinent ordinance requirements. Recommendations and helpful hints can be found at [www.co.marquette.wi.us](http://www.co.marquette.wi.us).

### **I. Privy Construction Type**

There are two types of privies utilized in Marquette County. Each has their own advantages and disadvantages.

A. Pit Privy: This type of privy consists of an excavated hole with a building constructed over it.

1. Advantages

- a. No tanks to purchase
- b. Virtually unnecessary to ever pump out

2. Disadvantages

- a. Must hire a soil tester to do a single auger boring
- b. Soil test must show 3 feet of separation from bottom of pit to groundwater or seasonal saturation level
- c. Hole may cave in

B. Vault Privy: This type of privy consists of placing a tank in the ground and constructing a building over it.

1. Advantages

- a. Can use on high groundwater sites
- b. Easy to install

2. Disadvantages

- a. Must be pumped out when full

- b. Must purchase a minimum of 200 gallon watertight tank

## **II. Permitting Process**

- A. A completed Marquette County Sanitary Permit application must be submitted to the Marquette County Zoning Office prior to construction.
- B. A completed Maintenance Agreement must be signed and attached to the permit application. This document is filed with the deed in the Marquette County Registrar of Deeds.
- C. Unless otherwise specified, a Privy Permit will expire 2 years from the date of issuance.
- D. If the installation of a privy is to remedy a violation, the deadlines for the violation correction must be followed instead of the standard 2 year expiration.
- E. Upon completion of the privy, you must contact the zoning office and provide access for them to ensure that the new privy complies with the ordinance requirements.

## **III. Construction**

### **A. Site Requirements**

1. A pit privy will not be installed on soils that do not have at least 3 feet of suitable soil below the bottom of the system.
2. Soil conditions shall be verified by a Certified Soil Tester.
3. Where these conditions cannot be met, a vault-constructed privy must be used.

### **B. Location**

1. Privies shall be located a minimum horizontal distance of:
  - a. 10 feet from a dwelling.
  - b. 50 feet from navigable water and watercourses.
  - c. 10-50 feet from property lines depending on Zoning District
  - d. 50 feet from water supply wells.
  - e. 63-110 from the centerline of road depending on road class

### **C. Construction Requirements for **Vault Privy Only****

1. Vault must be a minimum capacity of 200 gallons and cannot be constructed of metal.
2. The vault must be watertight and inaccessible to rodents and insects.

3. Foundation must be of concrete or cement block (Note: walls should extend 6 inches above ground and 12 inches below).
4. A pit of sufficient length and width must be excavated to accommodate the vault and to allow the setting of the vault.
5. The depth of the pit shall be such that the vault will extend at least 4 inches above the ground surface.

**D. Construction Requirements for Pit Privy Only**

1. The privy must be installed in the immediate area where the soil test was completed.
2. The bottom of the pit must terminate at least 3 feet above the seasonal saturation level or limiting factor as determined by the soil tester.
3. Wood Crib Linings are permitted to shore up sides of pit.

**E. Construction Requirements For All Privies**

1. The vault must be inaccessible to rodents and insects
2. A concrete or masonry foundation on which the privy housing can be erected;
3. A privy housing structure which affords privacy and shelter, and is fly-tight. The enclosing walls and roof must have no openings or cracks which are not sealed or screened;
4. Vents, windows, or openings which are completely screened
5. A vertical pipe or enclosed moisture-proof vent duct which extends from the privy vault to a point above the roof peak and is screened at the outlet and capped to divert precipitation;
6. The privy door must be of durable construction, tight fitting, and equipped with a self-closing device.

