

## Design guide | Ontario – Ecoflo<sup>®</sup> linear biofilter EL30 model series

This guide contains specific information required to plan the installation of an **Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 model series** treatment system in the province of Ontario. Specifications not described in the design manual must adhere to the regulations. The installation must be performed by an authorized installer. For more information, contact your local distributor or our Customer Service team at **1 800 632 6356**.

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# 1 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 is certified according to the CAN/BNQ 3680-600 Class B-IV standard ( $TSS \leq 10 \text{ mg/L}$ ,  $CBOD_5 \leq 10 \text{ mg/L}$ ). This certification includes a primary/septic tank equipped with an effluent filter, a dosing device, and a number of treatment modules (proportional to the flow to be treated) positioned on a sand layer. Treatment modules are designed to treat up to 80 L/m·d (6.44 gallons per linear foot) of filtration pad.

The figures below represent typical schematics of the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30. They represent the three possible types of distribution:

## 1.1 GRAVITY DISTRIBUTION

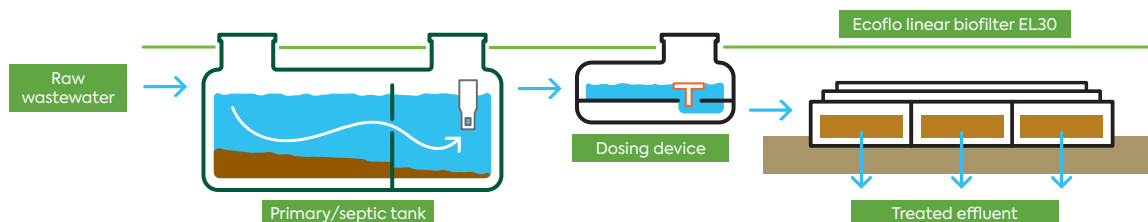


Figure 1.1 | Ecoflo linear EL30 biofilter system with gravity distribution

## 1.2 PUMP-TO-GRAVITY DISTRIBUTION

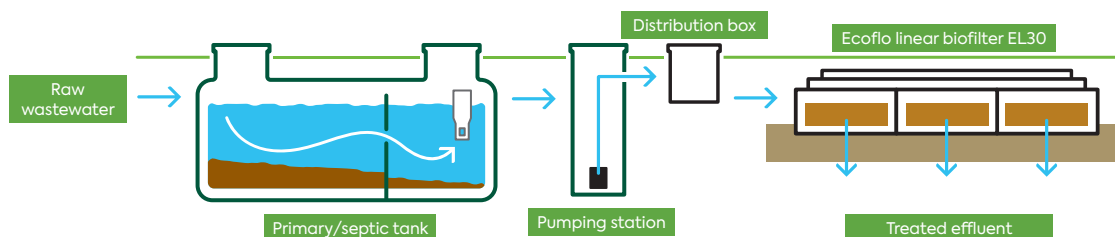


Figure 1.2 | Ecoflo linear EL30 biofilter system with pump-to-gravity distribution

## 1.3 LOW-PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION

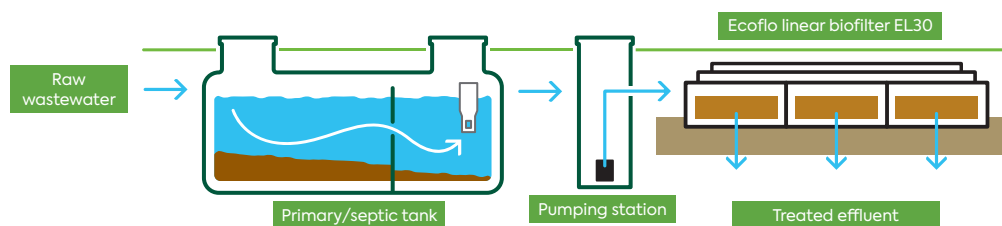


Figure 1.3 | Ecoflo linear EL30 biofilter system with low-pressure distribution

## 1.4 PRIMARY TREATMENT

The primary/septic tank is the first step of the treatment train. The primary/septic tank clarifies wastewater by letting suspended solids settle to the bottom and prevents clogging from occurring in the secondary or advanced secondary treatment system by retaining floating matter. An effluent filter is installed at the primary/septic tank's outlet.

The primary/septic tank and the effluent filter must comply with local regulations.

## 1.5 DOSING AND DISTRIBUTION

Dosing and wastewater distribution from the primary/septic tank to the treatment modules can be achieved through three different options:

1. Dosing device (gravity distribution)
2. Pumping station with a distribution box (pump-to-gravity distribution)
3. Pumping station with low-pressure distribution (low-pressure distribution)

The objective is to ensure an even distribution of septic/primary tank effluent throughout the length of each system lateral.

## 1.6 ECOFLO LINEAR BIOFILTER EL30

Wastewater travels through the perforated distribution channel of each treatment module and is dispersed onto the surface of the filtration pads. Treatment begins as wastewater percolates through the pads. Particles are filtered while microorganisms within the pads perform an aerobic degradation of organic matter. Open air channels support aerobic bacterial growth. Treatment is completed in the sand layer beneath the pads. Treated water returns to the environment by infiltrating into the soil directly beneath the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30. The pads reduce oxygen demand in the sand, minimizing clogging by removing a significant fraction of the organic matter that would have generated biosolids within the sand otherwise. This treatment system makes it possible for treated wastewater to achieve a B-IV treatment level per the CAN/BNQ 3680-600 standard (for example, less than 10 mg/L in term of BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS).

The operating principle of the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 allows permanent or intermittent use without requiring any special precautions and without affecting the quality of the treatment. No special action is required from the owner to get the system up and running. The minimum number of treatment modules is determined by the total daily flow of water to be treated (refer to Table 4 below), according to local regulations.

# 2 TREATED EFFLUENT QUALITY

When treating domestic wastewater up to the design flows and loads, a properly maintained Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 system will exceed the performance requirements of CAN/BNQ standard 3680-600. Actual test results, established through analytical methods described in the CAN/BNQ standard 3680-600, averaged 5 mg/L in CBOD<sub>5</sub> and 4 mg/L in TSS.

**Table 1: Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 treated effluent quality**

	Influent	Ecoflo EL30 effluent
<b>TSS</b>	262 mg/L	4 mg/L
<b>CBOD<sub>5</sub></b>	221 mg/L	5 mg/L
<b>pH</b>	7.7	7.2

The Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 does not require any acclimation or start-up period to consistently provide effluent quality demonstrated in the table above. This makes it the perfect system for secondary homes, seasonal homes, or any other intermittent use applications. The Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 has also been specifically developed and tested for cold-climate applications. Treatment efficiency is not subject to significant variation with ambient air temperature fluctuations.

## 3 WASTEWATER SYSTEM COMPONENT DESIGN AND SPECIFICATION

### 3.1. SYSTEM CONFIGURATION

The designer of an Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 system is responsible for the configuration and sizing of the system components, treatment modules, dosing device, and other peripheral component specifications, as well as treated effluent dispersal or final disposal and construction details per the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 design guide. Design must also comply with certification requirements and specifications not described in the design manual and adhere to local regulations as applicable.

### 3.2. DESIGN FLOW

The design flow must be calculated according to applicable local regulations, which usually define daily flow based on the number of bedrooms or occupants, the number of water fixtures, and/or square footage.

Premier Tech Water and Environment does not recommend the use of a garbage disposal unit. If one is being used, you must follow applicable local requirements for tank and dispersal area sizing.

Backwash from domestic water treatment devices may adversely affect a septic system. Premier Tech does not recommend discharging them into your septic system. Discharge them into an independent dispersal component if local jurisdiction allows for one. Otherwise, you must follow local regulations for tank and dispersal area sizing. In addition to these, Premier Tech recommends to:

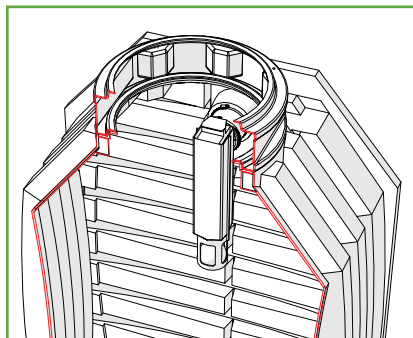
- Have your drinking water analyzed by an accredited laboratory (physico-chemical and aesthetic analyses).
- Consult a drinking water treatment professional to design your system based on the results of this analysis.
- Ensure that the system used complies with ANSI/NSF 44.

To reduce the frequency of backwashing, as well as the volume of water required and the quantities of salt used, Premier Tech recommends:

- The use of a DIR (Demand Initiated Regeneration) softener system.
- To avoid all-in-one solutions and choose drinking water treatment chains according to the specific contaminants to be removed (for example, filter for Fe, Mn, etc.).
- The use of an up-flow softener system.
- In the presence of a downflow softener system, to ensure that the latter does not use more than 6 lbs salt / ft<sup>3</sup> medium.
- To have the system calibrated by a professional to ensure optimal operation.
- To follow the instructions in the operation and maintenance guide for your system.

Make sure your drinking water professional coordinates with Premier Tech Water and Environment, who will assist you with your project.

### 3.3 PRIMARY/SEPTIC TANK



As per CAN/BNQ 3680-600 certification, the primary/septic tank must have a minimum effective capacity of twice the daily design flow. Tank must be rectangular in shape and or composed of two rectangular tank in series. It must comply with local regulations.

Choosing a primary/septic tank that is larger than required may improve the primary treatment performance of any septic system.

An existing primary/septic tank can be used instead of a new one. Its condition must be carefully inspected before being used for primary treatment. An NSF 46 certified effluent filter must be installed at its outlet if it is not already equipped with one.

### 3.4. EFFLUENT FILTER

As per requirements, the septic tank must be equipped with an effluent filter. The effluent filter extends the life of any treatment system by keeping solids in the primary/septic tank. The effluent filter is especially important if the household is equipped with a sewage pump or any other appliance that is susceptible to increase the suspended solids content in the wastewater. These appliances may jeopardize the system's operation and affect its performance. An effluent filter will also prevent solids from reaching the effluent pump. No garbage disposal unit should be installed on the primary/septic system.

Effluent filters used with the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 must comply with ANSI/NSF standard 46 and filter particles 1.6 mm (1/16") and larger. They are normally installed on the final outlet of the septic tank. While many different brands of effluent filters meet those specifications, Premier Tech recommends the use of the effluent filter PL-122 from Polylok or an equivalent.

### 3.5 SYSTEM DOSING

The Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 is fed by determined wastewater doses. The dose can be gravity-fed by a passive dosing device, conveyed by a pump to a distribution box, or pressure dosed (low-pressure pipes). The maximum length of a gravity fed system is 18 m (15 modules) and/or a total number of modules not exceeding 36 as detailed in table 2. A system with more than thirty-six modules requires a second dosing device or low-pressure pipe distribution. Runs exceeding 18 m (60') in length require low-pressure distribution.

**Table 2: Feeding modes - Limit of application**

Mode	Gravity		Low pressure*
	Dosing device	Pump to D-box	
Maximum length of a run	18 m (60')		as per design
	15 modules		
Maximum total number of modules per dosing device	36 modules	per design	

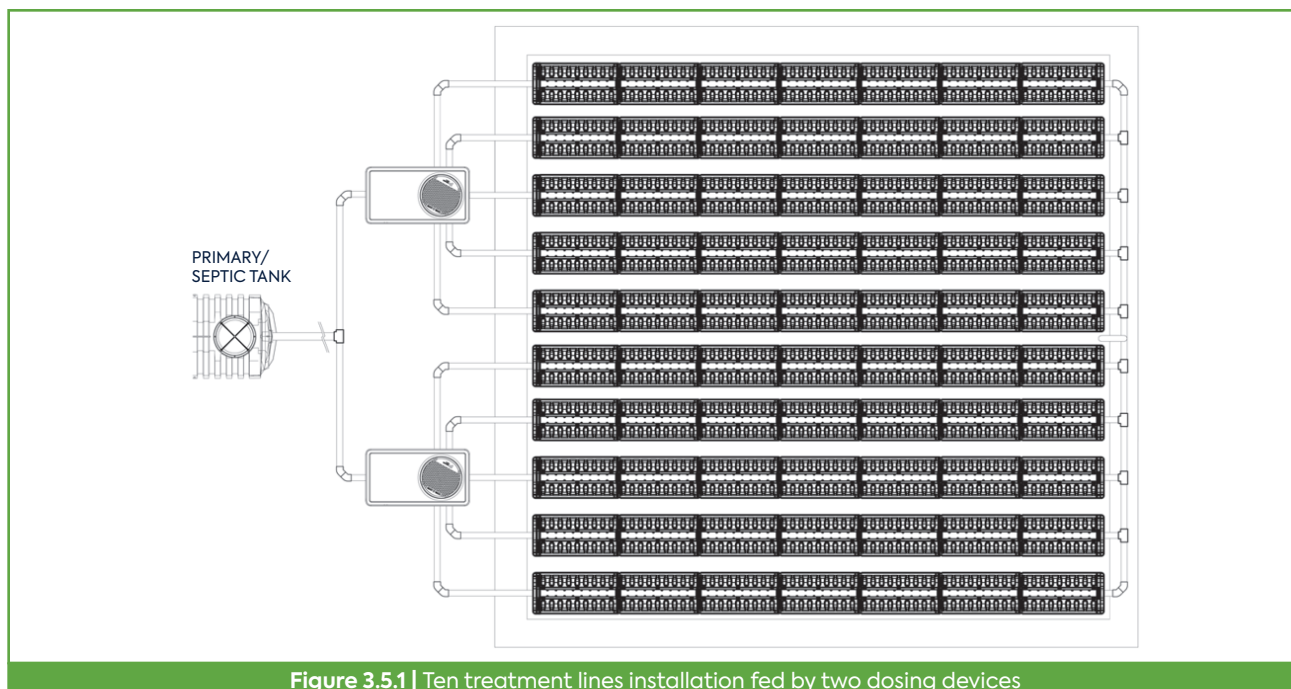
\* Length of a run may exceed 60 ft or 15 modules. Limitation in length or number of modules is based on design according to site constraints and pump capacity.

#### 3.5.1 Premier Tech Water and Environment's dosing device (gravity distribution)

Wastewater from the primary/septic tank flows by gravity to a dosing device. The device's outlets divide wastewater into measured doses to ensure an even distribution to each run. The doses then flow by gravity into the distribution channel of each run. Premier Tech Water and Environment device's maximum capacity capacity is 68 litres (18 gallons) per event.

The dosing device is designed to perform both dosing and distribution. As effluent from the primary/septic tank accumulates in the first compartment of the device, the dosing plate floats upward. As the dosing plate floats up, it prevents water from entering the second section of the device. Once the dosing plate reaches the top, effluent will begin to flow through the central aperture. As the plate descends, accumulated effluent drains through the centre of the plate and is flushed out to the second compartment of the device, where up to five 100 mm (4") outlet pipes serve as a distribution box.

The maximum length of a gravity fed system is 18 m (60') per run (fifteen modules) and/or a total number of modules not exceeding thirty-six (36) as summarised in table 2 above. A system with more than thirty-six modules requires a second dosing device as shown in figure 3.5.1. or low-pressure pipe distribution. Runs exceeding 18 m (60') in length require low-pressure distribution.



**Figure 3.5.1 | Ten treatment lines installation fed by two dosing devices**

For every hydraulic event, the dose must be comprised between 1.5 to 4 L/m of treatment modules.

### 3.5.2 Pumping station

A pumping station is required when gravity flow cannot be used to convey wastewater from the primary/septic tank to the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30. The size and configuration of the pumping station must be based on design flow, dosing requirements, and must comply with local regulations.

The pumping station must also be watertight and be equipped with a high-water level float and alarm.

#### 3.5.2.1 Pumped to a distribution box (pump-to-gravity distribution)

A pumping station conveys wastewater from the primary/septic tank to a distribution box that evenly distributes wastewater to each run. Installation must follow the manufacturer's guidance. The distribution box must be installed on compacted soil or a base to avoid settling. The inlet must be equipped with a velocity reduction device, such as a tee or baffle.

The maximum length of a gravity-fed system is 18 m (60') per run (15 modules).

Premier Tech recommends that the dose to a Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 treatment module be comprised between 1.5 to 4 L/m of treatment modules per hydraulic event.

#### 3.5.2.2 Pumped to low-pressure distribution (low-pressure distribution)

A pumping station conveys wastewater from the primary/septic tank into a network of small-diameter perforated pipes inserted within the distribution channels of each treatment module. The pumping station is connected to a distribution network under low pressure to evenly distribute water between the rows of treatment modules. Low-pressure distribution provides an almost uniform distribution of wastewater in all the orifices of the distribution network. The pump pushes the effluent from the primary/septic tank to the rows of treatment modules. As the small diameter of the orifices restricts the water, a pressure is established in the pipe network. As the pressure equilibrates quickly, and as the orifices all have the same diameter, the amount of water reaching each orifice is considered identical.

Drainage orifices drain the line after each pump cycle. The discharge orifice must face upward at 0° (12 o'clock), while the drain orifice faces downward at 180° (6 o'clock).

For additional information on the design and calculation of low-pressure distribution system, refer to section 5.5.



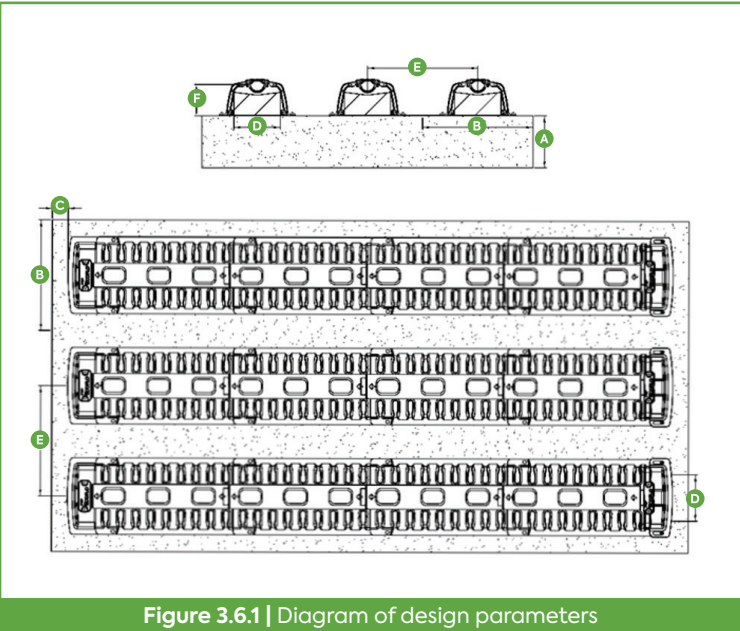
### 3.6. DESIGN CRITERIA

#### 3.6.1 Configuration of the dispersal area and the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30

There are many possible configurations of the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 treatment depending on site-specific conditions and topography, the number of rows, the number of treatment modules per row, and the arrangement of these rows on the dispersal area. Table 3 presents the criteria to be considered for the design of a treatment system. Figure 3.6.1 illustrates these different parameters.

**Table 3: Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 main design parameters**

Design parameters	Criteria
Linear design loading rate applied to the treatment modules	80 L/m-d 6.44 Gpd/ft
Design loading rate applied per treatment module	95 L/module 25 G/module
Maximum length of a row for a gravity or pump-to-gravity system	18 m (60') (15 modules)
Minimum sand height below the modules	<b>A</b> 300 mm (12")
Minimum width of sand layer beneath filtration pads	<b>B</b> 864 mm (34")
Minimum distance from the end of filtration pads line to the edge of the absorption area	<b>C</b> 150 mm (6") minimum
Width of filtration pads	<b>D</b> 400 mm (15 3/4 in)
Centre-to-centre spacing between rows of modules	<b>E</b> 864 mm (34") minimum
Module height	<b>F</b> 330 mm (13")



**Figure 3.6.1 | Diagram of design parameters**

The 300 mm (12") sand layer is measured from its base (application surface) to the bottom of the treatment modules. It is sized according to design criteria in Table 3. The sand layer must, at minimum, cover the entire surface under the treatment modules and extend at least 150 mm (6") from the end of each row. The minimal width of the sand layer is 864 mm (34") per row, on which the filtration pads are centred. System sand consists of typical filtration/septic sand with the following characteristics: effective diameter (d10) between 0.13 and 0.60 with a coefficient of uniformity (Cu) < 8, not more than 5% fines passing through a 0.074 mm sieve and a percolation time (T time) of at least 4 and not more than 12 min/cm, or according to local regulations.

Premier Tech recommends favoring long and narrow dispersal bed design on contour. For instance, the longer dimension and module runs (laterals) must be perpendicular to the site slope in trench and bed configurations.

The minimum number of modules is determined by rounding up to the nearest whole number the following calculation result:

$$n_{mod} = \frac{Q}{(LLR \cdot L_{pad})}$$

Round up to nearest whole number

**WHERE,**

**Q** Design flow determined per local regulation L/d or USG/d

**LLR** Design linear loading rate per length of filtration pad  
80 L/m-d (6.44 USG/ft-d)

**L<sub>pad</sub>** Length of filtration pad 1.183 m (3' 10 3/4")



If the system is composed of more than one row, divide the minimum number of modules required by the number of rows to determine the number of modules per rows and round up to the nearest whole number.

$$n_{mR} = \frac{Q}{(LLR \cdot L_{pad} \cdot n_R)}$$

Round up to nearest whole number

**WHERE,**

$n_{mR}$  Number of modules per run

$Q$  Design flow determined per local regulation L/d or USG/d

$LLR$  Design linear loading rate per length of filtration pad  
80 L/m-d (6.44 USG/ft-d)

$L_{pad}$  Length of filtration pad 1.183 m (3' 10 3/4")

$n_R$  Number of runs selected

Table 4: Minimum number of modules required for most common design flow

Design flow (L/d)	One treatment line	Two treatment lines	Three treatment lines	Four treatment lines	Five treatment lines
750	8	2 x 4	3 x 3	4 x 2	
1,100	12	2 x 6	3 x 4	4 x 3	
1,600	17 <span style="background-color: #d4edda; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb; border-radius: 50%; padding: 0 2px;">P</span>	2 x 9	3 x 6	4 x 5	5 x 4
2,000	21 <span style="background-color: #d4edda; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb; border-radius: 50%; padding: 0 2px;">P</span>	2 x 11	3 x 7	4 x 6	5 x 5
2,500	26 <span style="background-color: #d4edda; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb; border-radius: 50%; padding: 0 2px;">P</span>	2 x 13	3 x 9	4 x 7	5 x 6
3,000	32 <span style="background-color: #d4edda; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb; border-radius: 50%; padding: 0 2px;">P</span>	2 x 16 <span style="background-color: #d4edda; border: 1px solid #c3e6cb; border-radius: 50%; padding: 0 2px;">P</span>	3 x 11	4 x 8	5 x 7

P low-pressure distribution required.

All configurations can be pumped to gravity. An uneven number of modules per run must use low-pressure distribution.

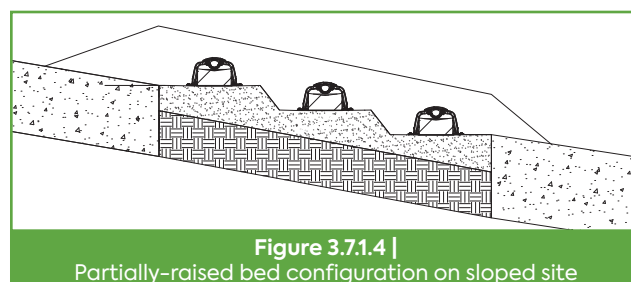
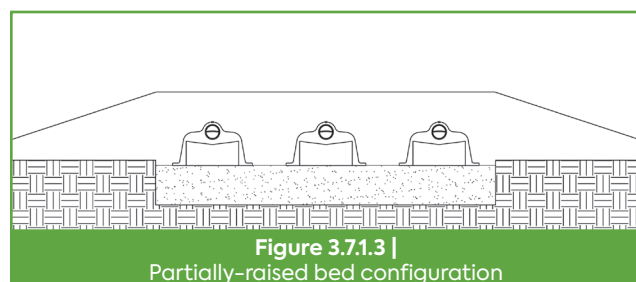
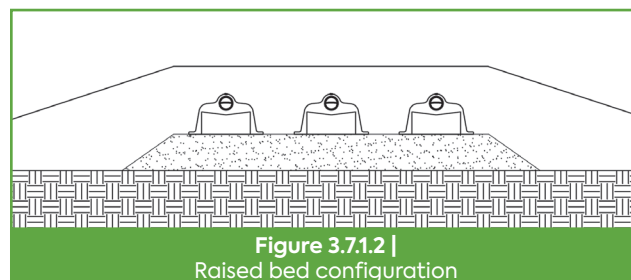
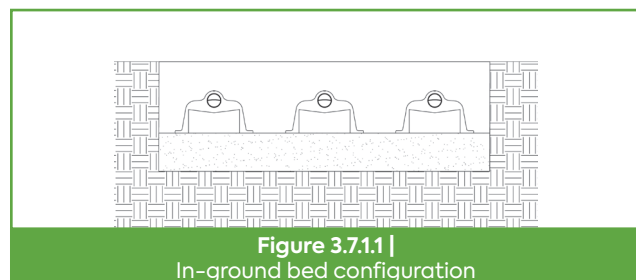
### 3.7 CONFIGURING THE DISPERSAL AREA AND THE ECOFLO LINEAR BIOFILTER EL30

Premier Tech Water and Environment proposes several possible configurations for the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 depending on site constraints. Configurations may be categorized as “bed” or “trench” and as “raised” or “in-ground”. The sand layer’s minimal height must be 300 mm (12”). The slope of the original grade must not exceed 25 percent. When installed on a sloped site, the 300 mm (12”) minimum system sand layer shall be maintained on the thinnest side. Premier Tech recommends favouring long and narrow dispersal bed design on contour (for instance, placing longer dimension and module runs perpendicular to the site slope in trench and bed configurations). Additional details for sloped sites are presented in section 3.7.4.

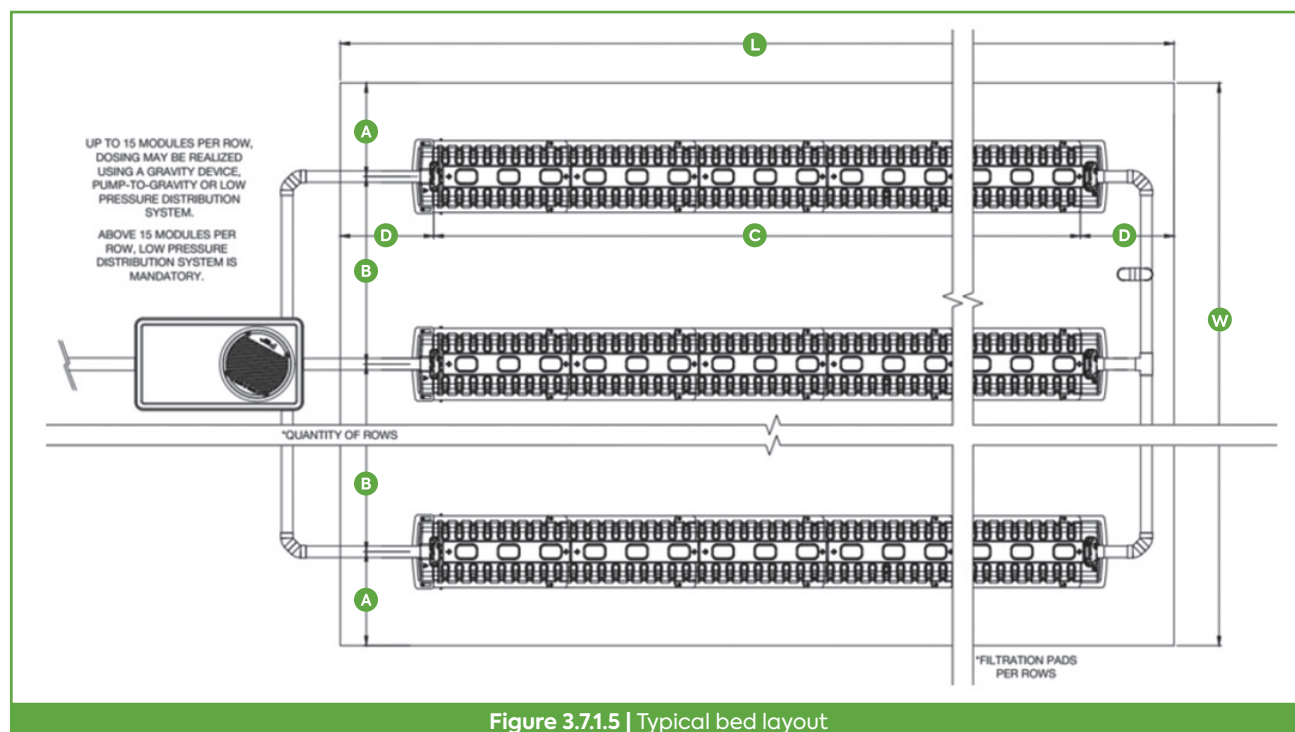
Dispersal bed sizing and calculations are presented in section 5.2.

### 3.7.1 Bed configurations

Bed configurations use a dispersal area where the system sand layer and runs/laterals are placed in parallel over a single continuous soil layer. Figures 3.7.1.1 to 3.7.1.4 illustrate different bed configurations.



A single run of Ecoflo linear biofilter modules is centred over the absorption area surface. Several runs are evenly spaced apart and centred on the absorption area. To centre and evenly distribute runs of Ecoflo linear biofilter modules onto the absorption area (fig 3.7.1.5), distance to the edge of the absorption area and between each lateral can be calculated as follows:



A	B	C	D	L	W
$\left( \frac{-(2Cn_R) + \sqrt{(2Cn_R)^2 + (16Sn_R)}}{(8n_R)} \right)$	2A	$1.183 \times n_{mR}$	A For centred system A=D	C+2D	$2A + (n_R - 1)B$

**S** Surface of absorption area required (ref section 5.2 for absorption area sizing)

**$n_R$**  Number of runs chosen

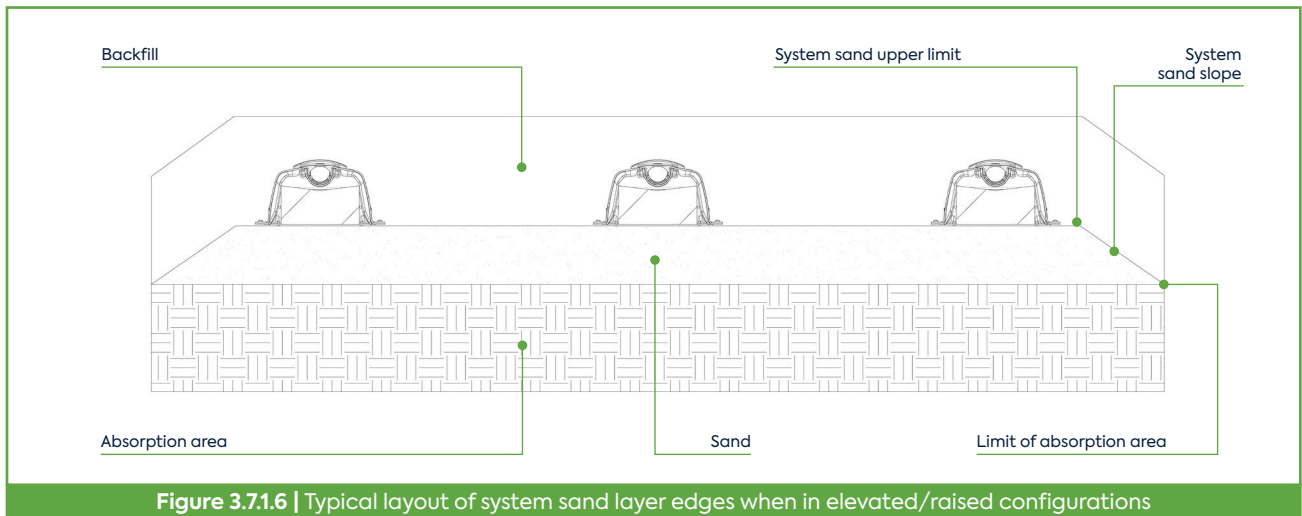
**$n_{mR}$**  Number of modules per run = round up  $\left( \frac{Q}{LLR \cdot L_{pad} \cdot n_R} \right)$

**Q** Daily flow rate (L/d) or un USG/d

**LLR** Linear loading rate on filtration pad 80 L/m-d (6.44 USG/ft-d)

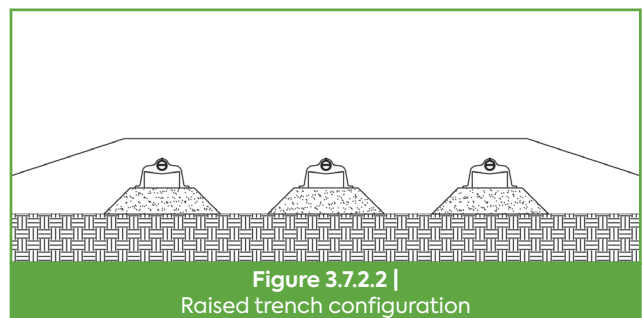
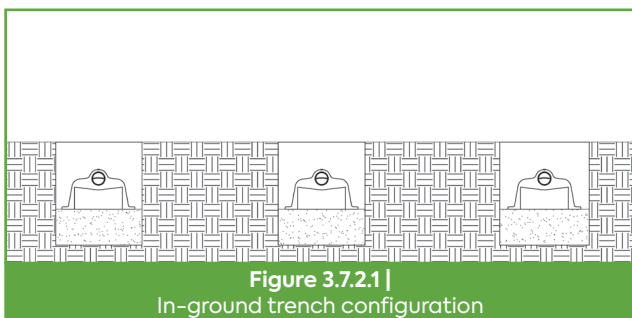
**$L_{pad}$**  Length of filtration pad 1.183 m (3' 10 3/4")

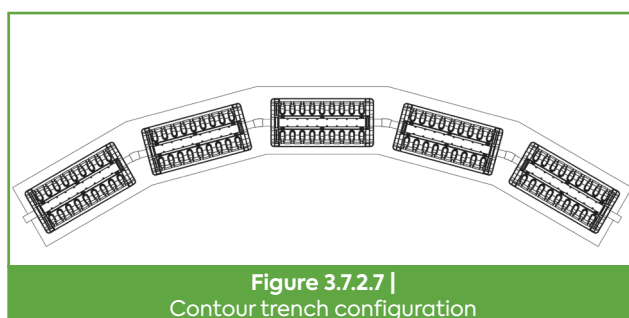
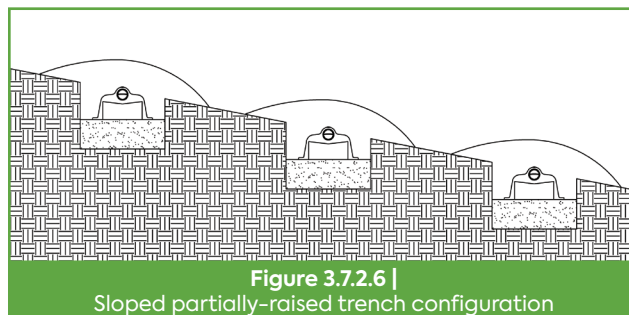
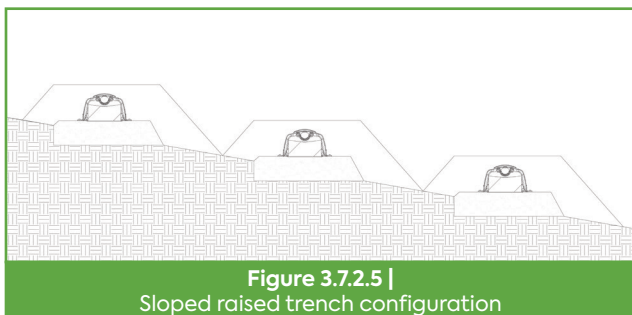
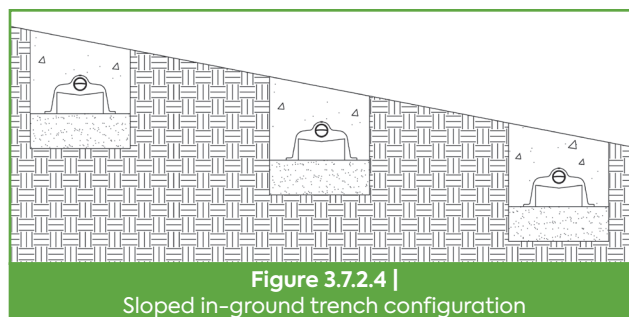
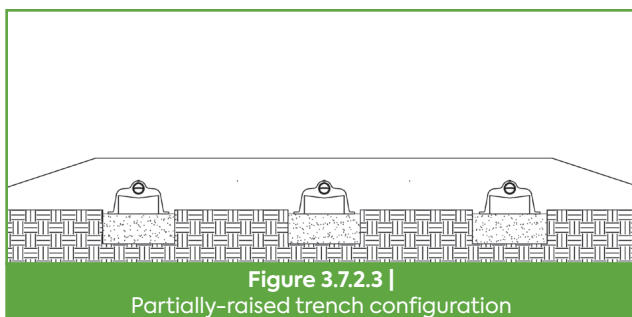
System sand must be sloped down evenly from the upper limit of the minimum system sand required-width under treatment modules to the outer limit of the absorption area to cover the entire surface of the absorption area, as shown in the figure below.



### 3.7.2 Trench configurations

Runs in trench configurations are spaced further apart, each having a separate sand layer. The total bottom area of the trenches must not be less than the dispersal area required for bed configuration. Trenches must be separated by a minimum of 1.2 m (4') of naturally occurring soil or backfill to provide a hydraulic barrier between consecutive trenches. Figures 3.7.2.1 to 3.7.2.7 illustrate some trench configurations.





Trench length is calculated as follow:

$$L = \frac{S}{(w_{\text{trench}} \cdot n_R)}$$

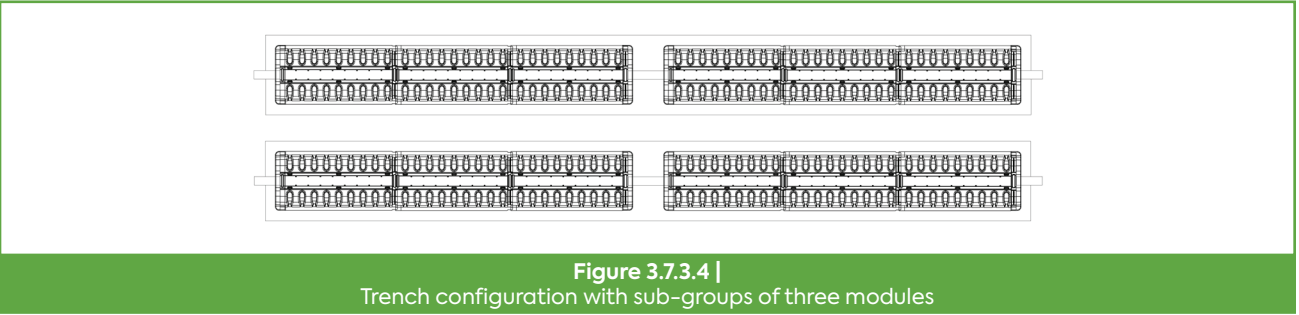
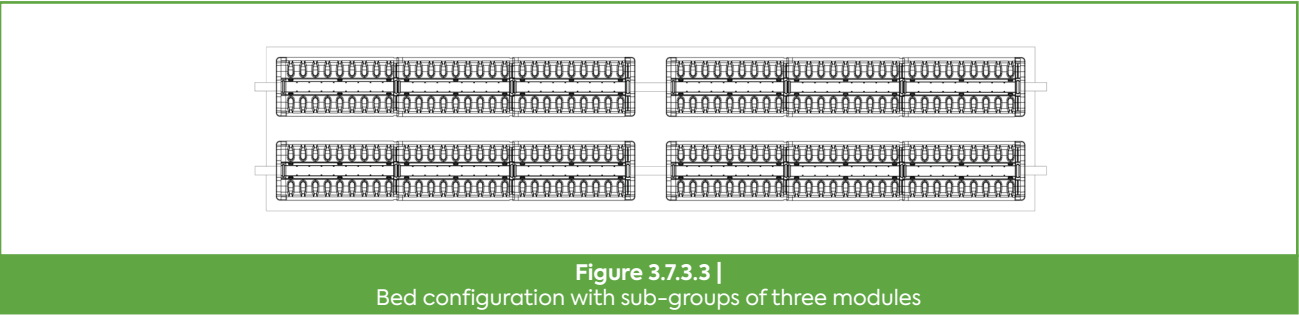
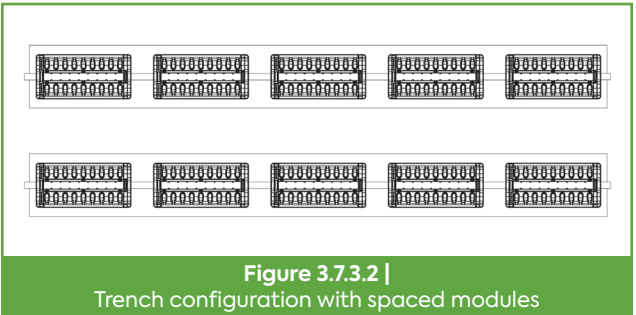
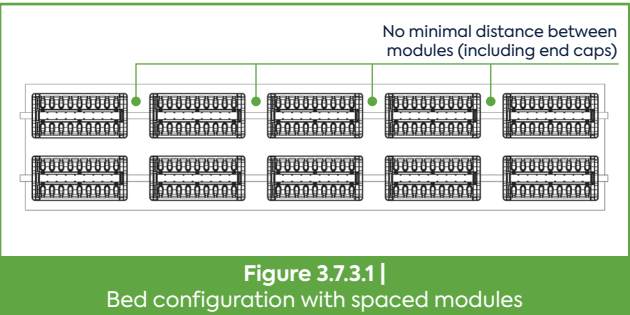
$$L_{R \min} = n_{mR} \cdot L_{\text{pad}} + 0.450 \text{ m (or 1.5 ft)}$$

**WHERE,**

$w_{\text{trench}}$	Trench width selected, minimum 0.864 m (34")
$S$	Surface of absorption area required, according to local requirements
$L$	Length of trench, shall be $\geq L_{R \min}$
$L_{R \min}$	Minimum possible length of the run
$n_R$	Number of runs selected
$n_{mR}$	Number of modules per run
$L_{\text{pad}}$	Length of filtration pad 1.183 m (3' 10 3/4")

3.7.3 Spacing within a run

Spacing between modules within a run is not required. However, modules can be spaced out to give sites with low percolation rates a more balanced dispersal area coverage. This can be done with either a bed or trench, individually or in sub-group configuration. End caps must always be installed at the end of each sub-group to prevent backfill from entering the modules. Each sub-group can be composed of one or more treatment modules and must be inter connected together using a solid pipe.



To evenly distribute the modules or sub-group of modules along the total length of the absorption area, proceed as shown:

$$D_{SG} = \frac{L - (n_{mR} \cdot L_{pad}) - (n_{SG} \cdot (L_{ic} + L_{ec}))}{n_{SG}}$$

$$D = D_{SG} / 2$$

**WHERE,**

$D_{SG}$  Distance between sub-group of modules

$n_{mR}$  Number of modules per run = round up  $\frac{Q}{(LLR \cdot L_{pad} \cdot n_r)}$

$n_{SG}$  Number of sub-group selected

$L$  Length of absorption area

$L_{pad}$  Length of filtration pad  
1.183 m (3' 10 3/4")

$L_{ic}$  Length of inlet cap  
0.195 m (7 11/16")

$L_{ec}$  Length of end cap  
0.415 m (16 3/8")

$D$  Distance of a run to the edge of the bed or trench length as shown on figure 3.7.1.5

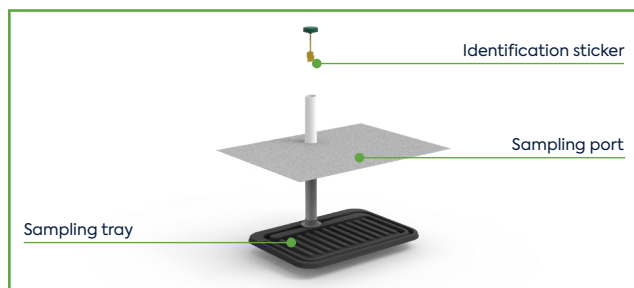
More balanced coverage of the absorption area length can also be achieved by adding complementary modules as necessary.

### 3.7.4 Split-bed configuration

Split-bed configurations (multiple absorption areas) are site-specific and must be approved by the local authority. Please contact a local Premier Tech representative for design assistance.

## 3.8 SAMPLING DEVICE

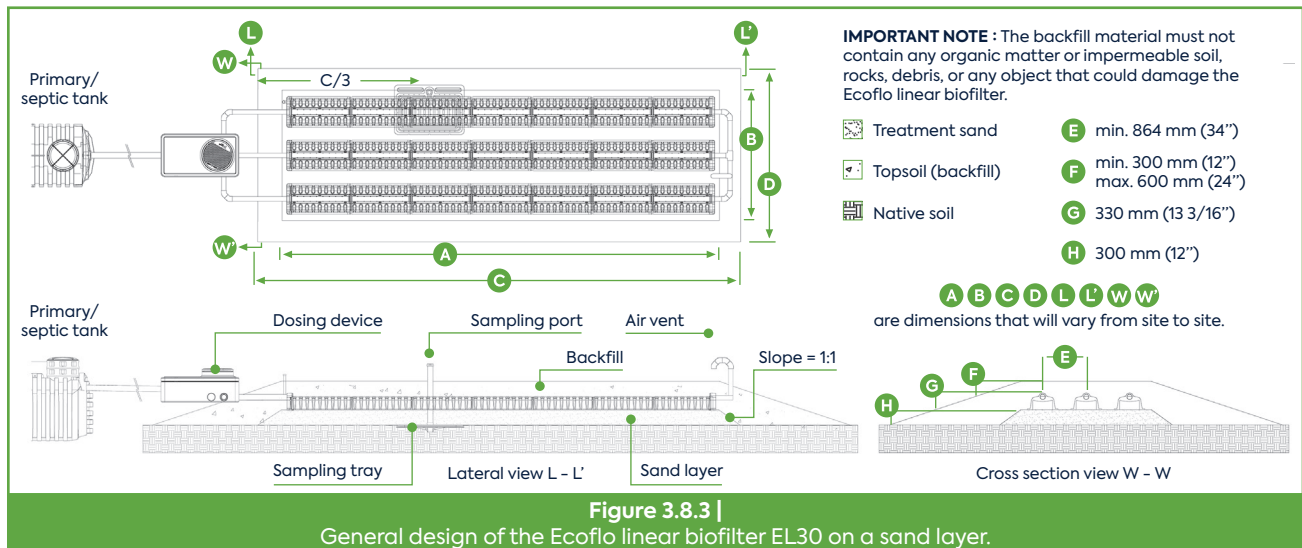
The sampling device must be positioned approximately at the third of the length of a row, based on the direction of water flow. Select a row as reference. The sampling device consists of a sampling tray with a 100 mm (4") port to collect the effluent. Install the sampling tray level beneath the sand layer.



**Figure 3.8.1 |**  
Sampling device



**Figure 3.8.2 |**  
Position of the sampling device underneath the sand layer



### 3.9 LIFESPAN OF A FILTRATION PAD

The effective life of an Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 filtration pad is estimated to be a minimum of 20 years under the following conditions:

- The system has been operated at flow and loading rates not exceeding the rates established in design and in accordance with Premier Tech Water and Environment owner's manual.
- The system has been designed and installed in accordance with Premier Tech's guidelines.
- The system has been maintained in accordance with Premier Tech's guidelines by a Premier Tech trained and authorized service provider, has been operated under an ongoing service contract, and complies with all administrative authority permit conditions.

### 3.10 FINAL DISPERSAL

The final dispersal system must be sized in accordance with local regulation/authorization and respecting, as applicable, Premier Tech's guidelines (refer to section 5).

## 4 LOCATION OF WASTEWATER SYSTEM COMPONENTS

### 4.1 PRIMARY/SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATION CONDITIONS

The primary/septic tank, equipped with an effluent filter, must be located:

- where there is no motorized vehicle traffic
- where it is accessible at all times for maintenance and cleaning
- an area safe from floods and submerging (for example, the primary/septic tank may require a drain around it in presence of high groundwater)

The primary/septic tank must be installed as specified by the manufacturer. It must be watertight and be used for the disposal of domestic wastewater only (for example, no roof water, surface water, or discharge from footing drains). The septic installation must be installed in accordance with the minimum clearances prescribed by local regulations.



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## 4.2 DOSING DEVICE

The dosing device must be installed according to the following parameters:

- The lid must always be accessible. Never cover it with mulch, soil, or any fixed structure.
- Backfill should be not higher than 50 mm (2") below the lid once landscaping is complete.
- Never drive a vehicle or place an object weighing more than 225 kg (500 lb) within 3 m (10') of the dosing device.
- Ensure rapid vegetation recovery to avoid erosion.

## 4.3 ECOFLO LINEAR BIOFILTER EL30

The Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 must be installed according to the following parameters:

- Never drive a vehicle over an Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 system.
- Ensure rapid vegetation recovery to avoid erosion.

Complying with these instructions contributes to the septic system's proper functioning and may help increase the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30's lifespan. Failure to comply with these guidelines may invalidate the warranty at Premier Tech's discretion.

# 5 EFFLUENT DISPERSAL

The Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 is a combined treatment and dispersal system. Design and sizing of the treated effluent dispersal bed must follow BMEC Authorization. This is a crucial step for every septic installation.

## 5.1 HYDRAULIC CONDUCTIVITY

Site assessment and soil conditions are critical to determine the appropriate type of treated effluent discharge. An accurate assessment of the soil's hydraulic conductivity is essential in planning any septic installation. This assessment should be performed following local regulations and will determine if subsurface discharge is possible.

The soil's infiltrative capacity determines the adequate sizing of the soil absorption system. The soil absorption system will ensure the proper infiltration of the treated effluent into the soil at all times. The soil's infiltrative capacity is often expressed as a percolation rate (average time, in minutes, that is required for water to drop 1 cm in the soil), which a qualified professional can determine through field permeability test, laboratory soil particle-size analysis, or any other method approved by local regulations.

Once the soil characteristics have been established, the size of the soil absorption system that will receive the Ecoflo linear biofilter's EL30 treated effluent can be determined. The shape of the soil absorption system may vary depending on site constraints and applicable local requirements. Premier Tech recommends favoring long and narrow dispersal bed design on contour (for example, the longer dimension perpendicular to the site slope).

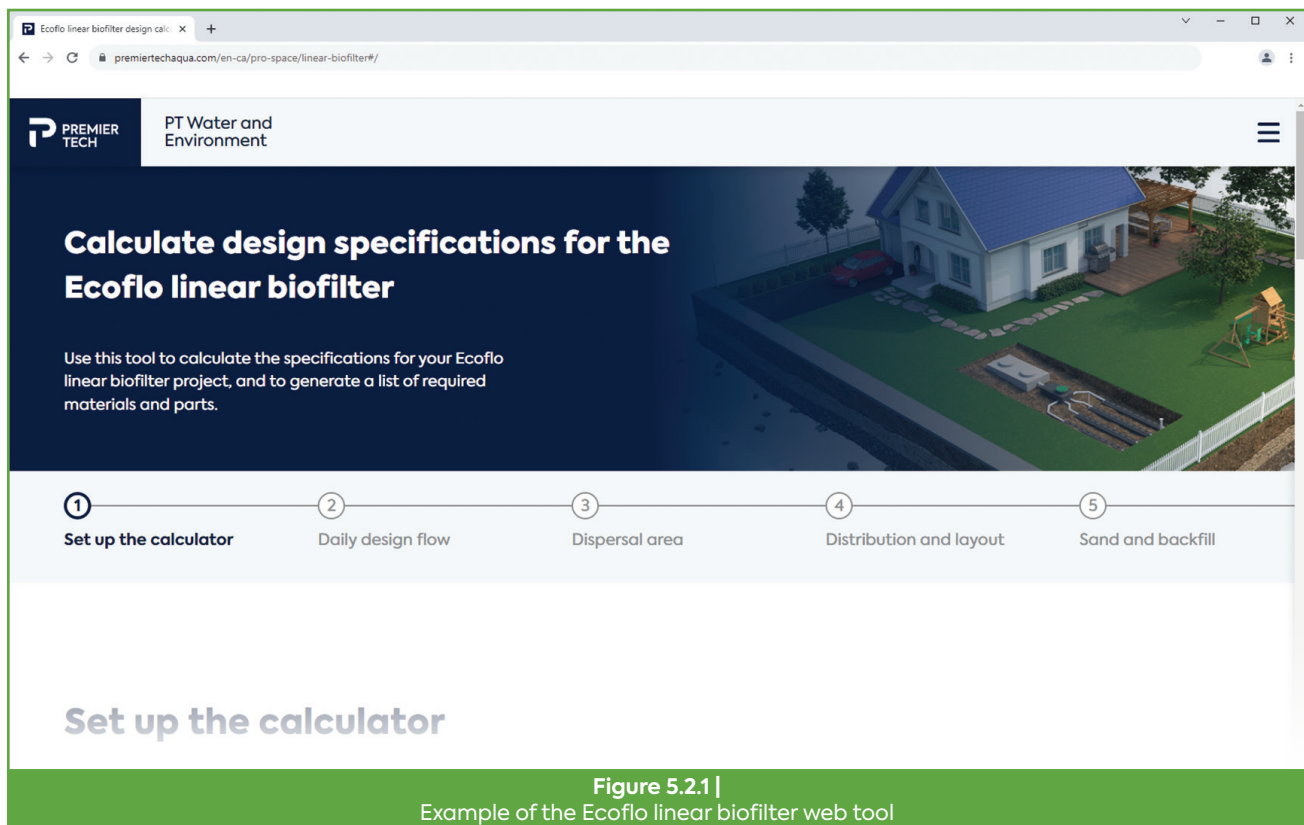
## 5.2 DISPERSAL BED AND TRENCH SURFACE SIZING

For soil percolation time (T) greater than 15 min/cm to 50 min/cm, the area of the dispersal bed must be equal to or larger than the area determined by:

- $S = QT/400$ 
  - S is the dispersal surface in m<sup>2</sup>
  - T is the percolation time (T) in min/cm of the native soil
  - Q is the total daily design sewage flow in (L)

For soil percolation time (T) less than or equal to 15 min/cm, the minimum area of the dispersal bed must be equal to the largest value between the minimum dispersal area required per the building code for that soil permeability ( $S = QT/850$ ) and the total minimum area required considering the minimum spacing for the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30.

Premier Tech Water and Environment has developed a web tool to design the Ecoflo linear biofilter system in either bed or trench configurations. The tool is available at this link : <https://www.premiertechnaqua.com/en-ca/pro-space/linear-biofilter/>.



### 5.3 VERTICAL SEPARATION TO LIMITING LAYER

The vertical distance between the bottom of the 300 mm (12") sand layer and the limiting layer (groundwater, rock, or impervious layer) must be in accordance with BMEC authorization. Table 4 summarizes the vertical separation to limiting layers (rock, water table, and soils with  $T \leq 1$  min/cm and  $T > 50$  min/cm) specified by BMEC authorization.

**Table 5: Vertical separation to limiting layers**

Percolation time (T)	Vertical separation between specified sand layer and limiting layer
$T \leq 6$ min/cm	600 mm
$T > 50$ min/cm	600 mm (OBC)
$6 \leq T \leq 50$ min/cm	450 mm

This vertical separation can consist of natural occurring soil, sand, or imported fill.

### 5.4 SYSTEM VENTILATION

When gravity distribution is used with the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30, a building's plumbing vent(s) is used to provide proper aeration. Where this is not possible, the vent is typically a 100 mm (4") diameter non-perforated pipe that is extended above natural ground level.

#### 5.4.1 General considerations

- The vent should be located close to the extremity of the distribution system or to the end of rows of interconnected runs.
- Vents must be above grade and not covered, capped, obstructed, or otherwise impeded in a manner that restricts air flow.
- Vent height must be high enough to not be covered by snow or ice during winter. A minimum height of 60 cm (2') is recommended.
- It is not recommended that vent pipes be lowered to grade because of risks of intrusion by pests, obstruction by dirt/leaves/grass/debris, infiltration of runoff water, or obstruction by overgrown vegetation. In the event that the vent is lowered to grade during summer, it must be ensured that it remains functional and organized in such a way to prevent intrusion of rodents, dirt, grass, leaves, debris, or runoff water within the vent, and prevent any restriction of the air flow.
- During winter, avoid ice and snow buildup around the vent area. Any direct accumulation can block the vent pipes and disrupt proper airflow.
- The vent can also be positioned to a convenient location. Ensure that the pipe does not have any bends that will allow condensation to pond in the pipe. This may close off the vent line. The pipe must have an invert higher than the system so that it does not drain effluent.
- In cases where a pumping station is used, it must have adequate ventilation to avoid buildup of harmful gases, air lock, and corrosion, and, most importantly, ensure proper aeration of the treatment system. This can be accomplished by using a separate vent pipe to the pump chamber, distribution box, or wherever practical, as shown in figure 5.4.1.
- Note that an installation with clusters of treatment modules needs to be vented individually, as shown in figure 5.4.2, and according to specification stipulated in section 5.4.2 below.

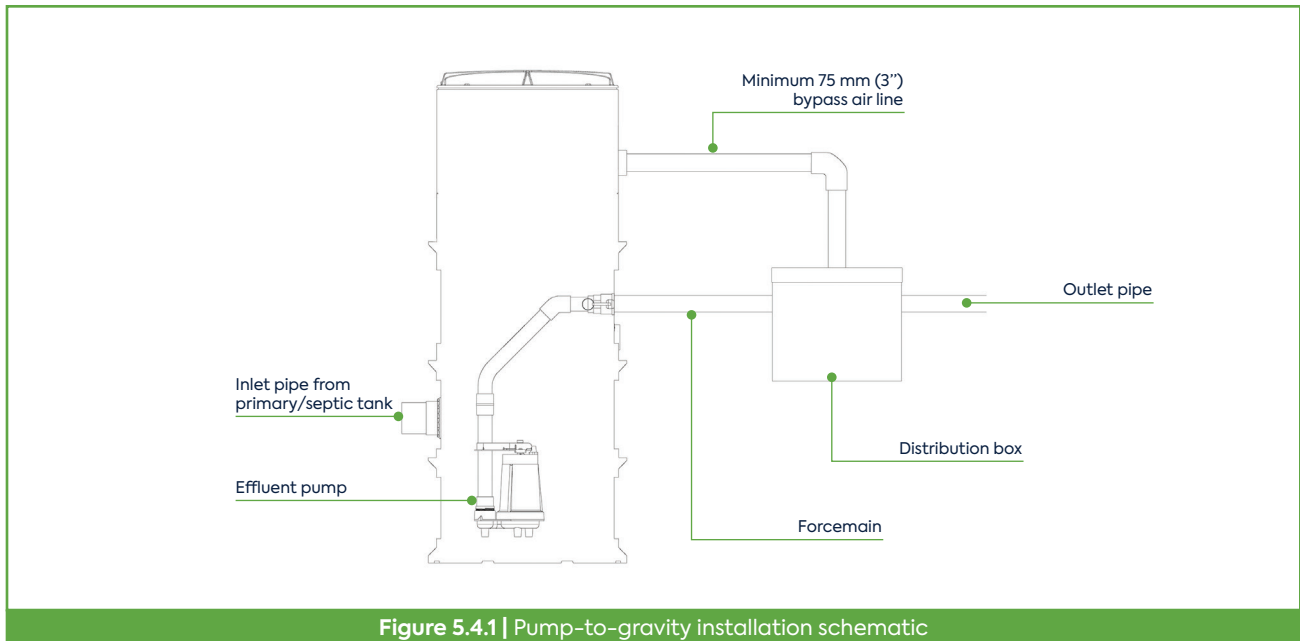


Figure 5.4.1 | Pump-to-gravity installation schematic

#### 5.4.2 Specific requirements

- At least one vent per system must be installed.
- An entire system can share a single vent if the total distance between the opposite treatment runs, center to center, doesn't exceed 3 m (10') as shown in figure 1 in appendix 1.
- An entire system exceeding 3 m (10') between opposite treatment runs, measured center to center, must have at least one vent per 3 m (10') of system width, evenly covering the treatment runs.
- Venting of runs that are spaced 3 m (10') or more apart, center to center, can be achieved by one of the following approaches, either:
  - Each run can be vented individually as shown in figure 2 in appendix 1, or
  - A vent can be installed between each run. as shown in figure 3 in appendix 1 or pair of runs shown in figure 4 in appendix 1.
  - If the vent pipe is installed remotely from the system we suggest a configuration as depicted in figure 5 in appendix 1 to promote more uniform air flow through the system runs.

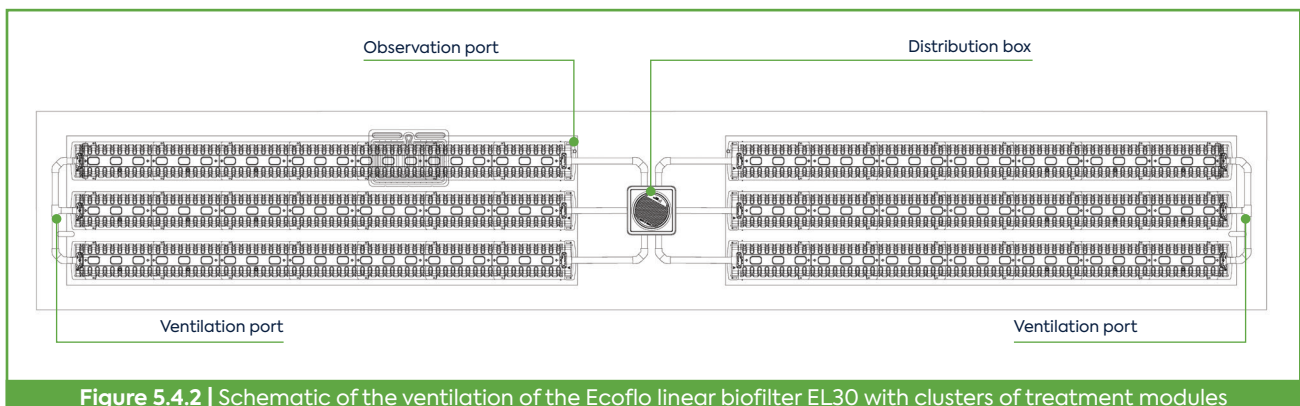
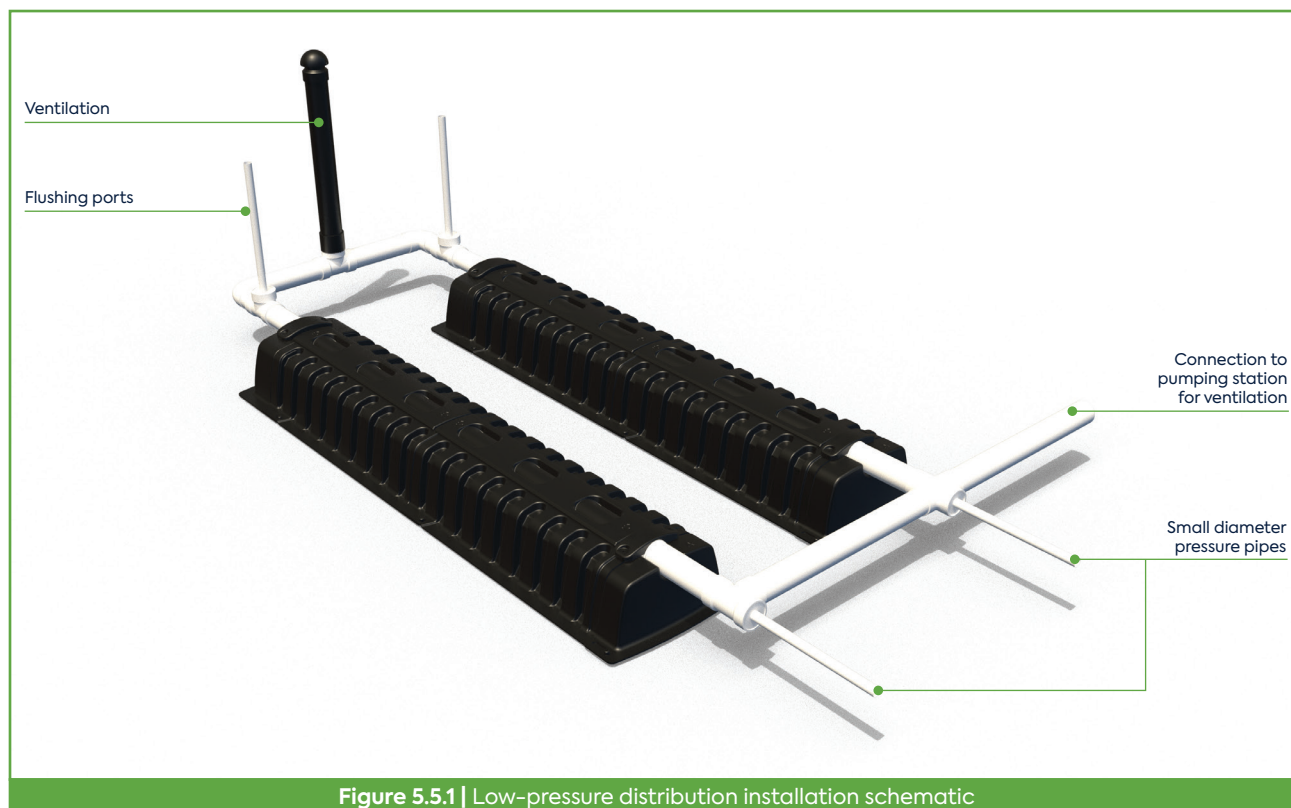


Figure 5.4.2 | Schematic of the ventilation of the Ecoflo linear biofilter EL30 with clusters of treatment modules

## 5.5 LOW-PRESSURE SYSTEM CONFIGURATION

Low-pressure distribution calculations determine orifice size, ensure that the flow is equally divided to every orifice, and that the residual pressure results in a minimum of 600 mm (2') squirt height at the distal end of the furthest run. The ends of each run require flushing ports to maintain the free flow of effluent from orifices at their distal ends.

The calculation of low-pressure dosing implies that the design should comprise equally-sized lateral lengths and zones as required.



**Figure 5.5.1 |** Low-pressure distribution installation schematic

Pressurized distribution design must account for elevation differences and for pressure drops in the pump system, force main, distribution valve(s), distribution manifold, and laterals themselves, all of which must be included in the calculation.

A summary of design elements follows:

- Specify force main and manifold length and determine their sizing – internal diameter. Typical force main sizing should be between 32 mm (1.25" nominal) and 50 mm (2" nominal).
- Specify the static elevation difference between the low water level in the dosing pump chamber and the highest element in the system (either the highest lateral or distribution valve), then add the required residual pressure.
- Determine the number of runs and their length as explained in the previous section.
- Specify an orifice spacing: the recommended orifice spacing is 0.6 m (minimum one holes per pod) along the lateral for even distribution of effluent. The number of orifices per laterals and space of orifice to edge can then be calculated.
- Specify a number of drain orifices. Drain orifices must be evenly spaced, facing downward, on each lateral to allow drain-out and prevent freezing between pump cycles. Premier Tech recommends having a drain orifice at the first module, the last module, and every third module between.
- Specify an orifice size: the minimum size is 4.75 mm (3/16" nominal). Note that the orifice size is very important in the flow/pressure calculation and that their spacing can be varied to modify the flow.

- Specify a distal squirt height: a minimum of 600 mm (2') is required. Distal squirt height specified values are used in the iterative process to confirm that the actual discharge rate of the pump fits with system design. By selecting different squirt heights, a system curve can be plotted using the newly calculated total head and capacity that intersects with the pump performance curve. The point of intersection indicates the actual system discharge flow rate.
- From these data, it is possible to calculate the flow through each lateral and the total discharge rate.
- Evaluate pump discharge assembly and system fittings losses.
- Calculate pressure drop in the pump discharge, force main, fittings, valves, etc., up to the manifold.
- Calculate the pressure drop in the lateral, accounting for flow reduction at each orifice. It is recommended to design the orifice sizing and spacing so that the difference in flow within the laterals has less than 5% between the first orifice and last orifice. Typical lateral sizing should be between 32 mm (1.25" nominal, minimum), and 50 mm (2" nominal).

**FOR DESIGN SUPPORT CONTACT OUR REGIONAL SUPERVISOR.**

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate  
to contact Premier Tech at **1 800 632-6356**.

# ANNEX 1 | DIFFERENT VENT CONFIGURATIONS FOR ECOFLO LINEAR BIOFILTER

Figure 1: Configuration recommended for system width  $\leq 3\text{m}$  (10') – one system vent minimum

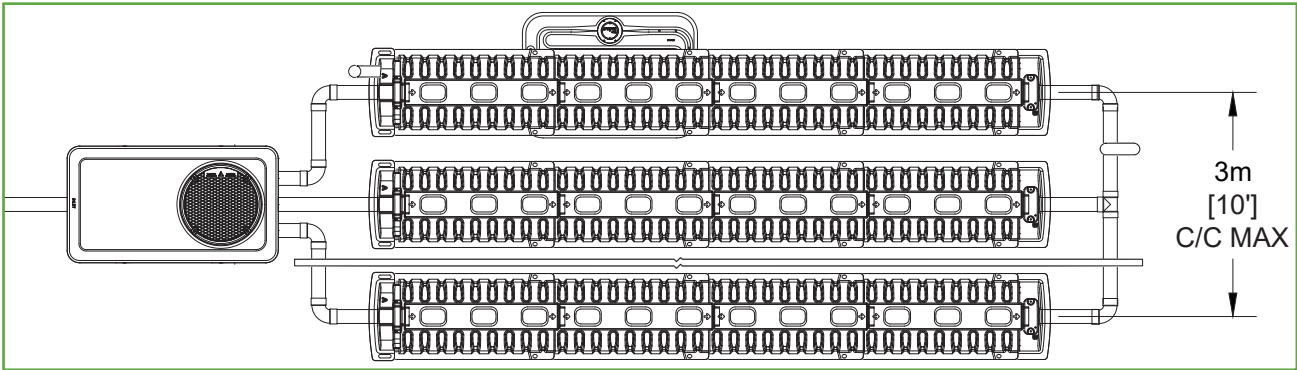


Figure 2: Configuration recommended for system width  $\leq 3\text{m}$  (10') – Remote vent example

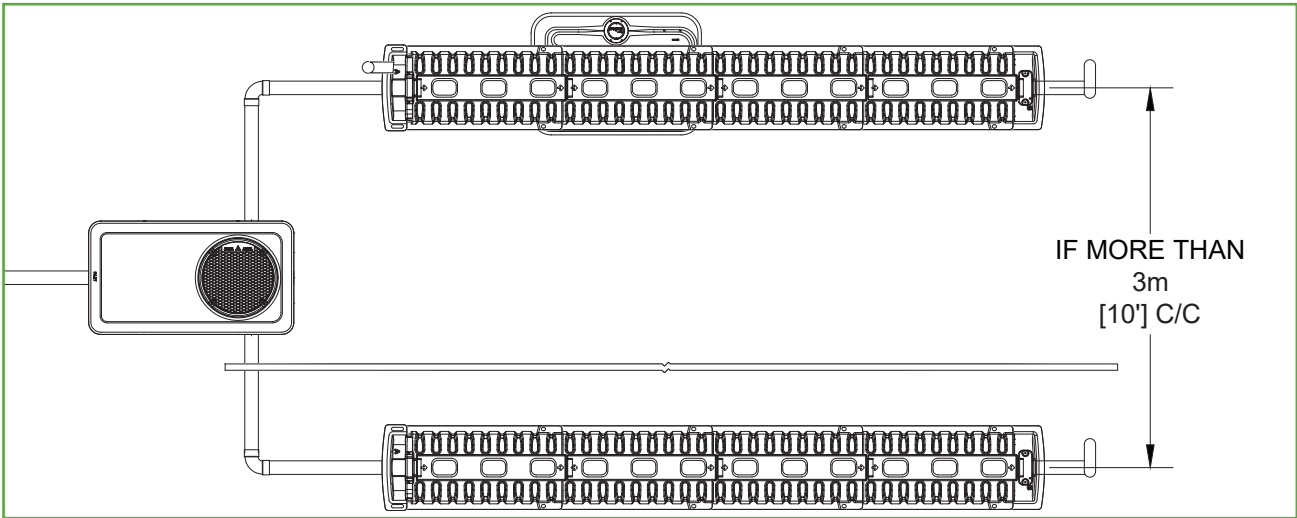
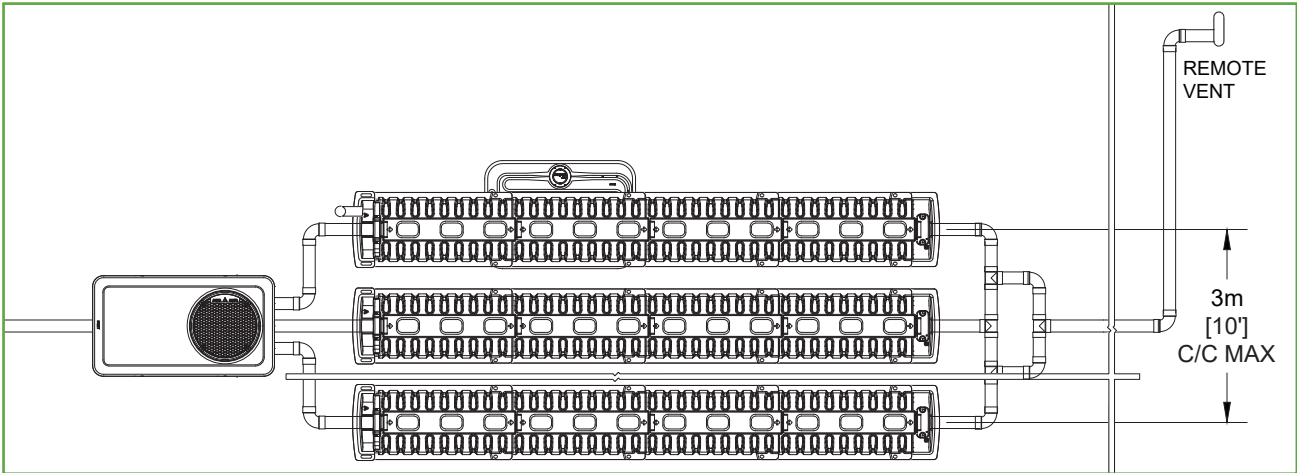
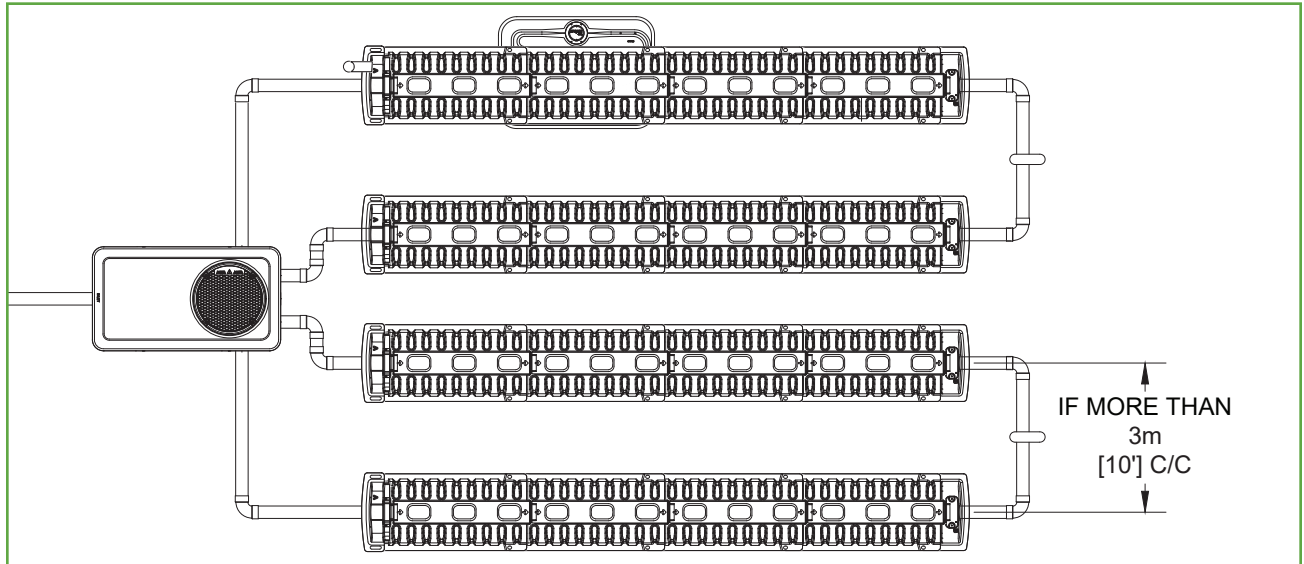


Figure 3: Configuration recommended for system with  $>3\text{m}$  (10') between runs – Vent between each run

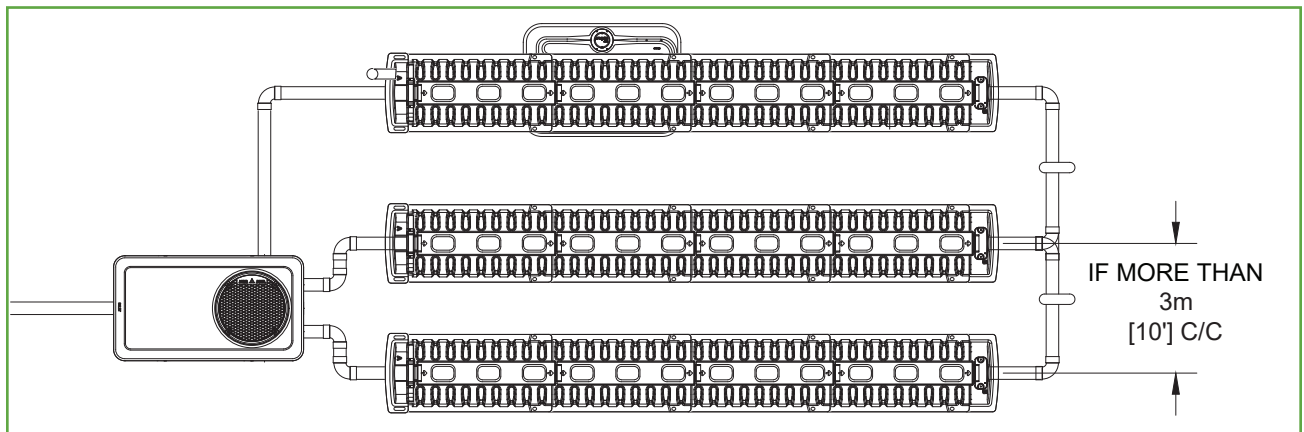




**Figure 4:** Configuration recommended for system system width > 3m (10') – Vent on pair of runs



**Figure 5:** Configuration recommended for system width > 3m (10') – Vent on each run



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