

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
Environmental Management
Department (EMD)

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EMD is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for Sacramento County including its incorporated cities. The Sacramento County CUPA Program is administered by the EMD Environmental Compliance Division.

DISCLAIMER - The information contained in this Compliance Assistance Bulletin is based upon the statutes and regulations and is intended to provide a basic overview to help achieve compliance. This document does not replace or supersede relevant statutes and regulations and is not intended as legal advice. All interested parties should monitor changes to relevant statutes and regulations for updates.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL

916-875-8400

OR

SEND AN EMAIL TO:

septicinfo@saccounty.net



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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COMPLIANCE
ASSISTANCE
BULLETIN

September 2014



**ONSITE WASTEWATER
TREATMENT SYSTEMS (OWTS)
AKA SEPTIC SYSTEMS**



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT (EMD)

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The purpose of this Compliance Assistance Bulletin is to:

- Notify interested parties of a clarification in seepage pit construction requirements, and
- Clarify some requirements and standards in the OWTS program.

SEEPAGE PIT CONSTRUCTION

A permit from the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) is required for all OWTS installations and repairs. One reason these permits are required is to ensure that OWTS systems are installed per design requirements, both to protect public health and provide property owners some assurance of construction quality.

Sacramento County Code (SCC) 6.32.230(c) Construction Permit states *"A construction permit shall not be considered finalized until the following has occurred: The Department has determined that the on-site wastewater treatment system has been installed in compliance with this Chapter, the On-site Wastewater Guidance Manual, and any conditions placed on the construction permit by the Department."*

In order to determine compliance with the SCC, EMD will require depth verification for all newly installed seepage pits.

Beginning October 1, 2014 EMD will require pit depth verification by one of the following options:

1. A physical inspection of the pits prior to placing the rock and a final inspection after placing rock. These two inspections will likely exceed the allotted time on the permit resulting in billing for extra time; or
2. Install sounding tubes in each seepage pit so depth measurements can be taken during the final installation inspection. Sounding tubes must be a minimum of two inches in diameter. Sounding tubes must extend from inside the seepage pit inspection box to the bottom of the pit **or** must extend from above the pit collar, through the collar to the bottom of the pit. EMD recommends the use of perforated pipe for the sounding tube. A cap must be placed on the top of the sounding tube after the EMD inspection.

CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS

1. In order to properly review OWTS applications, the location of wells must be properly identified on plot plans. In accordance with SCC 6.32.220 Construction Permit—Plan Details, all plot plans submitted with a permit application must include all existing or proposed wells within one hundred (100) feet of the property boundary and within one-hundred fifty (150) feet of the proposed leaching pits. Otherwise the permit application will be deemed incomplete and not approved until an acceptable plot plan is submitted.
2. SCC 6.32.230(c)(2) Construction Permit—Final Inspection and Certificate of Completion states a construction permit shall not be considered finalized until an as-built drawing of the installed OWTS is prepared by the licensed installer or the registered professional. To fulfill this requirement, as-built drawings will need to be submitted at or before the final inspection.
3. As per SCC 6.99.170, fees are based on an allotted time for permitting and inspection activities. Whenever the allotted time is exceeded the permit applicant will be billed for extra time at the current hourly rate. This would include additional inspections to visually confirm seepage pit depth.

If any questions, please contact the EMD Liquid Waste information line at 916-875-8400 or email us at septicinfo@saccounty.net.