

Yakima Health District On-site Sewage System Program

REPAIR / REPLACEMENT OF A FAILED SEPTIC SYSTEM

An on-site septic system is considered to be failing if it threatens the public health by inadequately treating sewage or by creating a potential for direct contact between sewage and the public. **A septic system is considered “failing” if one or more of the following exist:**

- Surfacing sewage
- Sewage backing up into a structure
- Sewage leaking from a septic tank, pump chamber, or collection system
- Inadequately treated sewage contaminating ground water or surface water

If one or more of these conditions exist, the system must be replaced or repaired.

Step 1: Apply for an on-site septic system permit the Yakima Health District (YHD). The appropriate fee and the following information must be included with the application.

1. Tax parcel number for the lot.
2. Site address and directions to the site.
3. Phone number(s) so we can contact you if additional information is needed.
4. A detailed plot plan to be submitted with the application (see sample plot plan).

Step 2: Mark and flag all of the following at your site:

1. Location of existing septic system (e.g. septic tank, drainfield, etc.)
2. Existing water, irrigation, electric, natural gas, and any other utility lines.
3. Property lines and/or easements.
4. Any proposed improvements that may effect the location of the replacement septic system.

Step 3: It is desirable to have your septic system installer, designer, and you meet a YHD staff on-site. **Dig at least one testhole** (see “Site & Soil Evaluation” guidelines) in the area where you feel the replacement system will be located. If YHD staff were not present when testholes were dug, notify them when the testholes are ready for inspection.

Step 4: YHD field staff will evaluate soils in the testhole(s) and complete a site review. Upon completion of the soil evaluation and site review a “Site and Soil Report” will be issued along with other necessary materials.

Step 5: You may prepare the design yourself (if a conventional / gravity flow system is required) or hire a Certified Designer or Professional Engineer to prepare the septic system design. **YHD requires that a Certified Advanced Designer or Professional Engineer design all “Alternative” septic systems.** Upon completion of the design, submit it to YHD for review.

Step 6: YHD field staff will complete the design review and approve or deny the design. Once the design is approved a permit will be issued. **Installation of the septic system cannot start until the permit is issued.**

Step 7: The permit and approved design can be picked up at the YHD reception desk.

- Step 8:** Install the septic system. A homeowner is allowed to install his or her own system once a year or contact a Licensed Septic System Installer. A list is included in the permit packet.
- Step 9:** When the system installation is complete, contact your designer to inspect the installation. (The designer must approve the installation before you contact YHD for a final inspection.) Once the designer has inspected and approved the installation contact YHD for a final inspection.
- Step 10:** YHD field staff completes final inspections. A scaled “as-built” drawing will be done by the YHD field staff and placed in the permanent file for future reference.

After reading this material if you still have questions please call and speak with one of the field staff:

YAKIMA HEALTH DISTRICT

249-6508

or

1-800-535-5016 ext 508