

Yakima Health District On-site Sewage System Program

EXISTING SYSTEM EVALUATION

An “Existing System Evaluation” is done to determine the size, type, layout, and location of an existing septic system. They are done when the Yakima Health District (YHD) has no record of the septic system (i.e. system installation predates record keeping, system installed without permit, etc.) Some common reasons for an “Existing System Evaluation” to be required are:

1. Outbuildings or other structures are proposed to be constructed (e.g. shop, swimming pool, garage, etc.), and they cannot be located over the existing septic system or the replacement area.
2. Structures are being enlarged or a change of use is proposed for a structure and no record exists for the existing septic system.
3. A lending institution is requiring that an existing septic system meets current codes, but no record exists for the system.

There may be other reasons for an “Existing System Evaluation” to be required that are not listed. Yakima Health District staff may assist you in determining whether an existing system evaluation will be required.

STEP 1: Once it has been determined that an “Existing System Evaluation” is needed, make application to 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).
5. Copies of building permit application and plot plan from County Permit Services Office (this is not the plot plan described in #5). Be sure that all easements are shown on the County plot plan.

STEP 2: Also mark, flag, and label all of the following:

1. Proposed improvements, if any (e.g. buildings, swimming pools, etc.)
2. The locations of all existing and/or proposed wells on the property or within 100 feet of the property lines.
3. Existing water, irrigation, electric, natural gas, and any other utility lines.
4. Property lines and/or easements.
5. Location of existing septic tank (mark the corners.)

STEP 3: You must verify the size/capacity of your septic tank. If no information exists to verify the size of your septic tank you will be required to have it pumped by a Licensed Septic Tank Pumper. Once the septic tank is pumped submit a copy of the “pumpers report/receipt” for YHD review.

STEP 4: You must show the size and type of the drainfield by uncovering the following:

1. The distribution box (D-box), if present.
2. The beginning and end of each lateral in the drainfield. Enough of the lateral must be exposed to show the trench width (trench depth will be determined by YHD field staff during site review.)
3. If the drainfield is an absorption bed, the four corners of the bed must be exposed.

STEP 5: Dig testhole(s) at least 10 feet from the existing drainfield (see “Site & Soil Evaluation” guidelines.)

STEP 6: Notify YHD staff when Steps 4 and 5 are done so that a site review can be scheduled. (It is preferable to meet someone on-site in most cases for an “Existing System Evaluation”.)

STEP 7: YHD field staff will complete the site review and evaluate the existing system to determine if it complies with current requirements. **If the system does not comply with current requirements an “Alteration” may be required.**

STEP 8: If the existing system is shown to comply with current requirements, or the system is “altered” and brought into compliance, a “clearance” will be issued or an approval letter written (whichever is needed).

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