

WHAT IS A SEPTIC SYSTEM OR ON-SITE SEWAGE FACILITY?

An on-site sewage facility is a system for the treatment and disposal of wastewater less than 5000 gpd, that is generated and disposed on that site. Various means of treatment and disposal are available. Soil type and water tables restrict the old standard septic system in most of Brazoria County.

DO I NEED ONE?

If your property is not within reach of a “city” or “public” sewer line and if your project will generate wastewater, then the answer is “yes”. A building equipped with bathrooms, sinks, kitchens, washing machines, etc. will generate wastewater. Older properties with inadequate or malfunctioning facilities are required to have a new facility installed.

WHAT MUST I DO TO HAVE ONE INSTALLED?

Have a site evaluation conducted at the location of the project (home, business, etc.) by a site evaluator. If the evaluation requires an alternative system, then professional plans must be drawn by a Professional Engineer or a Registered Sanitarian. Submit the drawings with the permit application to Brazoria County Environmental Health Department with a contract with a state-licensed installer to do work.

HOW DO I OBTAIN A PERMIT TO INSTALL AND OPERATE ONE?

To obtain a permit, you must fill out an application and submit it with a set of construction drawings and a site evaluation report. Drawings for alternative systems must be done by either a registered engineer or

registered sanitarian. The site evaluation reports must be done by a registered site evaluator.

A GUIDE TO OBTAINING AN ON-SITE SEWAGE FACILITY (SEPTIC SYSTEM) PERMIT.

This checklist has been prepared to help guide you through the permitting process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at (979) 864-1600.

To obtain a permit, the following items must be submitted:

- ◇ A completed application signed and notarized by the property owner.
- ◇ One set of drawings prepared by either a registered engineer or registered sanitarian. Drawings must be to scale and must clearly detail the on-site sewage facility to be installed.
- ◇ One copy of a site evaluation report which includes a soils investigation of the proposed installation site. (Forms for this purpose may be obtained from this office.) The evaluation must be signed by a site evaluator.
- ◇ If you are installing a spray irrigation system, an affidavit signed and notarized by the property owner indicating the licensee is aware of his responsibility for proper maintenance and operation of the on-site sewage facility. (Affidavit forms are available from this office and may be notarized here.) Also, a copy of a maintenance agreement with a licensed company must be attached to the design.

- ◇ The fees for the permit and inspection total \$210.00 for single family dwellings and \$410.00 for all others. If more inspections are required, an additional \$100.00 or \$200.00 for each trip to the job-site is charged. Payment must be made by cashier’s check, money order, or cash, and made payable to the Brazoria County Environmental Health Department.

You must indicate on the permit, whether you intend to install the system or have a registered installer do the work. All installers doing work in Brazoria County must be registered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. To insure an installer is registered, call (979) 864-1600 or ask to see his/her current registration card.

Two to five days should be allowed for review of plans and supporting documents. Non-standard system plans may take up to 30 days and be reviewed by the TCEQ staff in Austin.

As the property owner, you must insure that your on-site sewage facility is inspected by the Environmental Health Department and passes all inspections prior to covering it up or using it. The permit does expire 12 months from the date of issuance, so all inspections must be done prior to this time.

HOW MUCH DO THEY COST AND WHO PUTS THEM IN?

According to reports from on-site sewage facility installers, a facility for a single family dwelling generally costs between \$4,500 and \$7,000. It must be installed by an installer registered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality or installed by the

homeowner. Care must be exercised when installing these systems so that they will function as designed.

Also, the average cost of services for engineers and sanitarians, are generally between \$300 and \$600.

HOW DO I KEEP IT WORKING?

To keep your system working and to avoid costly repairs, some basic rules should be followed. First, never dispose of household wastes, such as toxic chemicals in your system. Garbage disposals should be avoided or the system should be over designed to accommodate the extra waste load. Secondly, conserve water whenever possible. One leaking toilet can over burden your system and cause a problem. Your system must also be properly maintained. If you have septic tanks, they should be pumped every two to three years to insure proper operation. Remember, pumping your tank is like changing your oil. You won't see immediate results but your system will keep working longer with fewer repairs.

**Director
Environmental Health**

**BRAZORIA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
111 E Locust Bldg, A-29, Suite 270
ANGLETON, TEXAS 77515**

(979) 864-1600
(979) 388-1600
(281) 756-1600

HOURS OF OPERATION:

**MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
8:00am-5:00pm**

**RULES OF
BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS
FOR ON-SITE
SEWAGE FACILITIES
(Septic Systems)**

**INFORMATION
GUIDE**



**ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH
(979) 864-1600
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**ON-SITE
SEWAGE FACILITIES**

KAREN CARROLL