

Online Support and Resources for Onsite Wastewater Professionals

DecentralizedWastewater.org

Hideyuki Terashima

Steve Wilson

Jennifer Wilson

Illinois State Water Survey

University of Illinois

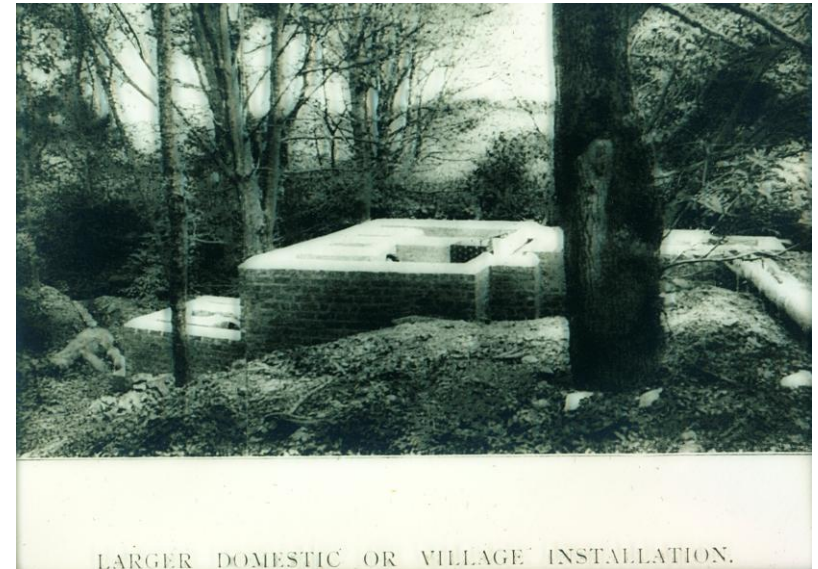
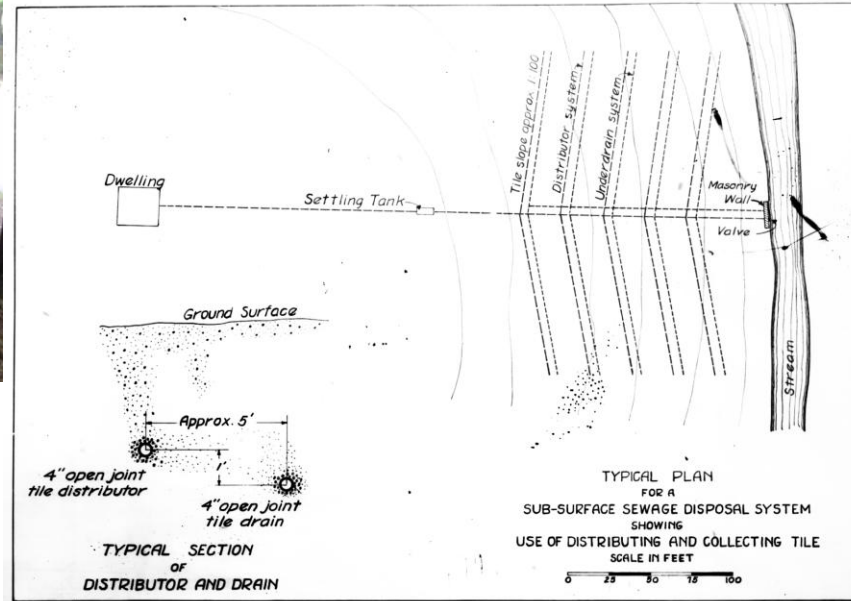
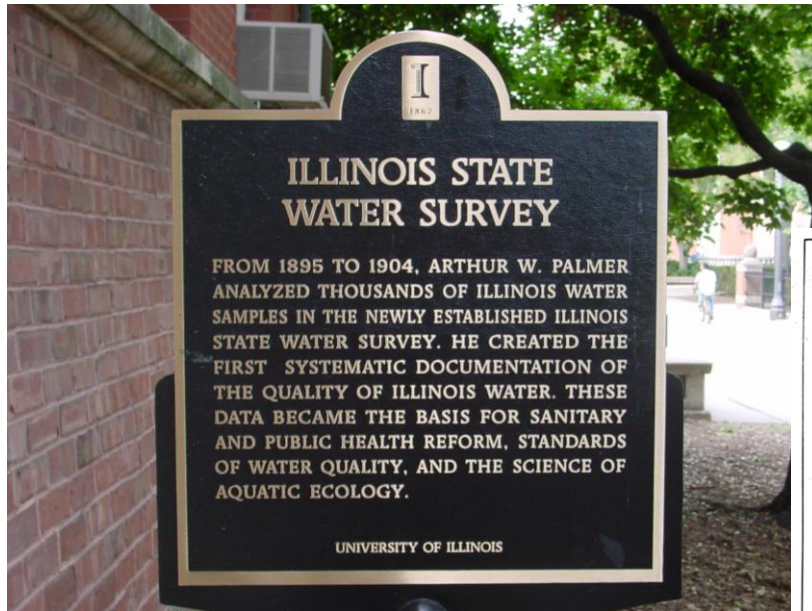
These Programs are Sponsored, Funded, & Supported By
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Onsite | 2024
Spokane, WA
Wastewater
Mega-Conference
Celebrating Tomorrow's Environment
Clean Water for the Future



Who We Are



All materials presented herein and henceforth represent my own opinion, and do NOT reflect the opinions of NOWRA

Outline

- What is DecentralizedWastewater.org
- Wide range of topics with example resources
- How to find resources on DecentralizedWastewater.org
- Other features offered on the website

DecentralizedWastewater.org

- Clearinghouse of information for anything related to onsite wastewater.
- Legwork has been done for you, easy to use, value-added information.
- An easy to use interface for finding, free, publicly available information on the web.
- Supports operators, can call us, email us, request our help in finding resources or help.

We Have Done The Legwork

- Search for various organizations nationwide.
 - That provide technical assistance and training
 - Regulatory agencies and associations
- Library of publicly available documents, presentations, manuals, programs.
- Nationwide calendar that lists trainings offering continuing education
- All from regional, state, and national organizations (RCAP/EPA, state agencies, onsite wastewater associations, community colleges, etc.)

Value Added Information

- Complete details.
 - Clear, concise summary of every document
 - List the host/owner and source pages
 - ***All event info in one location***
- Logic put into search and database information.
- Clickable details with contact info.

Wide Range of Resources

- 20 Categories

Asset/Financial Management

Certification/License Exam Prep

Consumer Information

Discharge/Water Standards

Environmental Impacts/Concerns

Health & Safety

Innovative/Alternative Systems

Installation/Installers

Monitoring

Nutrient Control

Operation & Maintenance

Pumping/Pumper

Regulations/Permits

Remediation

Soils/Drainfields

Source Water Protection

System Design/Treatment

System Inspection

Troubleshooting

Water Security/Emergency Response

Wide Range of Resources

- Searchable Resource Types

CD/Program/Spreadsheet

Factsheets/Case Studies

Forms/Templates

Manuals/Handbooks

Newsletters/Magazines

Reports

Slides/Presentations

Videos

Webpage/Website list

- Searchable Event Types

Outings/banquets (networking events, tours, etc.)

Certification exam

Conference/symposium

Seminar/meeting

Training/workshop

Webinar/live online trainings

Short On Time?

Find All The Best Resources In One Place, For Free!

DecentralizedWastewater.org is a clearinghouse of continuing education training events, free resources, and the latest news for decentralized and onsite wastewater professionals.

[More About Us](#)[Go To Latest News](#)

Upcoming Training Opportunities

[Search The Calendar >](#)

Our event calendar includes free and paid continuing education training opportunities for decentralized wastewater professionals.

September 4, 2024 | 11 a.m. Central

Put Controls To Work For You

Orengo Systems

Learn about Orengo's various control panels, plus available options, features, and suggested applications.

[» Learn More](#)

September 24 | 1 p.m. Eastern

Optimizing Onsite Wastewater Systems

Environmental Finance Center Network

Learn troubleshooting techniques, issues related to FOG, and important guidelines on what not to flush.

[» Learn More](#)

December 18, 2024 | 1 p.m. Eastern

Design And Installation For Difficult Sites

Infiltrator Water Technologies

Learn possible solutions to challenging site conditions, including tight soils, high water table, site elevations, steep slopes, and more.

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The screenshot shows the search interface with three blue arrows pointing to specific elements: one pointing to the 'Select...' dropdown menu on the left, one pointing to the 'Keyword:' input field in the center, and one pointing to the orange 'Retrieve Documents' button on the right. Below the 'Reset All' link is the 'Retrieve Documents' button.

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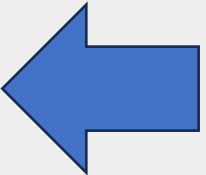
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The screenshot shows a search interface with a 'CATEGORY' dropdown menu on the left, a 'Select...' dropdown in the center, and a 'Keyword:' input field on the right. The 'CATEGORY' dropdown is highlighted with a red box and contains the following options: Regulations/Permits, Remediation, Soils/Drainfields, Source Water Protection, and System Design/Treatment. A blue arrow points to the 'Select...' dropdown. Another blue arrow points to the 'Retrieve Documents' button. Below the search fields, there is a 'Filters' section showing 'CATEGORY = 'System Design/Treatment'' and a 'Reset All' link.

Total Records:85 - Showing Page: 1 of 9

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1. **Title:** ["How-To" Guide for Wastewater Management of Rural, Underserved Communities in the Black Belt Region of Alabama: A Resource for Local Stakeholders](#)

Summary: This 28-slide presentation from NOWRA's 2022 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference provides an overview of wastewater management challenges in the Black Belt Region of Alabama where many residents have 'straight pipe' raw sewage discharge due to no sewer access, poverty, and unsuitable soil. The presentation also highlights the barriers to addressing wastewater issues in small communities, wastewater collection strategies (traditional municipal systems, onsite systems, cluster systems), management options, funding sources, and community education and outreach methods. Several slides provides more information on decentralized cluster systems and shares the costs per connection and the different clusters system approaches including STEP (Septic Tank Effluent Pump) and STEG (Septic Tank Effluent Gravity).

Source: <https://www.nowra.org/conference/mega-conference/2022-conference-proceedings/>

Host(s): [National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association](#)

2. **Title:** ["How-To" Guide for Wastewater Management of Rural, Underserved Communities in the Black Belt Region of Alabama: A Resource for Local Stakeholders](#)

Summary: This is a 28 page presentation is from NOWRA's 2022 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference. The presentation outlines approaches to address

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The screenshot shows a search interface with the following elements:

- CATEGORY** dropdown: Regulations/Permits, Remediation, Soils/Drainfields, Source Water Protection, System Design/Treatment.
- TYPE** dropdown (highlighted with a red box): CD/Program/Spreadsheet, Factsheets/Case Studies, **Manuals/Handbooks** (selected), Newsletters/Magazines, Reports.
- Select...** dropdown menu.
- Keyword:** text input field.
- Filters:** CATEGORY = 'System Design/Treatment', TYPE = 'Manuals/Handbooks', [Reset All](#).
- Retrieve Documents** button (highlighted with a blue arrow).

Total Records:19 - Showing Page: 1 of 2

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1. **Title:** [A Guide to Community Septic Systems](#)

Summary: This 11-page handbook discusses information on subdivision planning, conditions of approval, soil and site requirements, and miscellaneous requirements. This handbook includes references and contact information as well.

Source:

Host(s): [Idaho Department of Environmental Quality](#)

2. **Title:** [Alternative Collection System Manual](#)

Summary: This 104-page manual provides information and guidance on alternative wastewater collection systems, which have been developed to provide cost-effective solutions for wastewater collection and conveyance. Alternative collection systems have developed centered around changing the motive force (e.g. pumping) or changing the character of the wastewater collected so that construction and operating costs can be reduced. The most common alternatives used are pressurized sewers using septic tank effluent pumps (STEP) or low-pressure sewers (LPS), and septic tank effluent gravity (STEG) sewers that are small diameter sewers that convey septic tank effluent through a gravity sewer main.

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| <p>CATEGORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Regulations/PermitsRemediationSoils/DrainfieldsSource Water ProtectionSystem Design/Treatment | <p>TYPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">CD/Program/SpreadsheetFactsheets/Case StudiesManuals/HandbooksNewsletters/MagazinesReports | <p>Select...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Select...STATEHOST | <p>Keyword:</p> <input type="text"/> <p>Filters</p> <p>CATEGORY = 'System Design/Treatment'</p> <p>TYPE = 'Manuals/Handbooks'</p> <p>Reset All</p> <p>Retrieve Documents</p> |
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Total Records:19 - Showing Page: 2 of 2

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11. **Title:** [Manual for septic professionals in Minnesota](#)

Summary: This 662-page manual provides guidance for onsite professionals (installers, designers, inspectors, maintainers, or service providers) in Minnesota. Originally developed in 1972 to serve as educational material for extension educators focused on sewage treatment, the manual continues to be updated with the latest information, rules, and regulations. The manual includes detailed information on the regulations involved with the design, installation, O&M of onsite systems, soil science basics, overview of a site evaluation process, understanding wastewater sources and characteristics, residential wastewater collection and plumbing, septic tank overview, tank and septage management, pumping systems, pretreatment units, effluent distribution, soil treatment systems, etc. The manual also features a chapter on reference materials such as formulas, conversion factors, loading rates, etc.

Source: <https://septic.umn.edu/manual-professional>

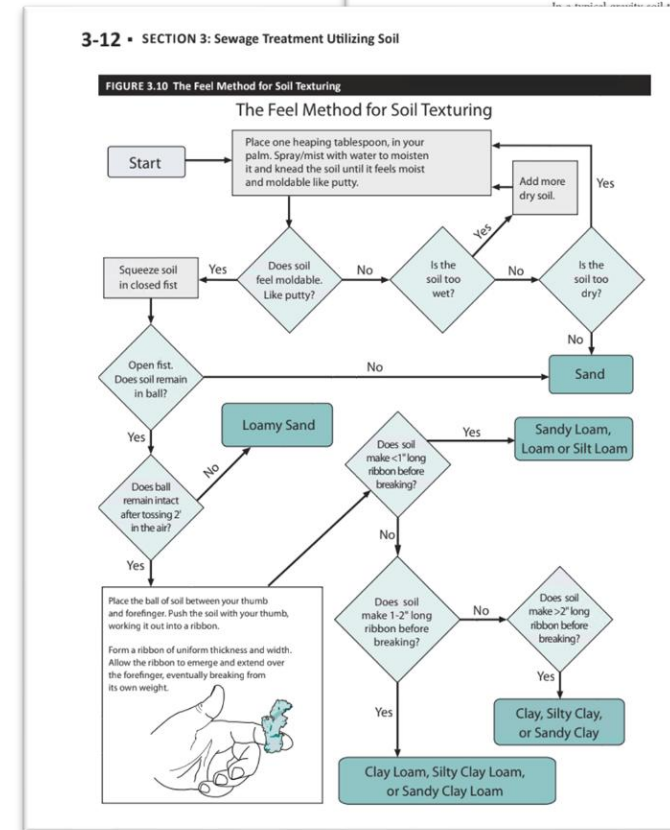
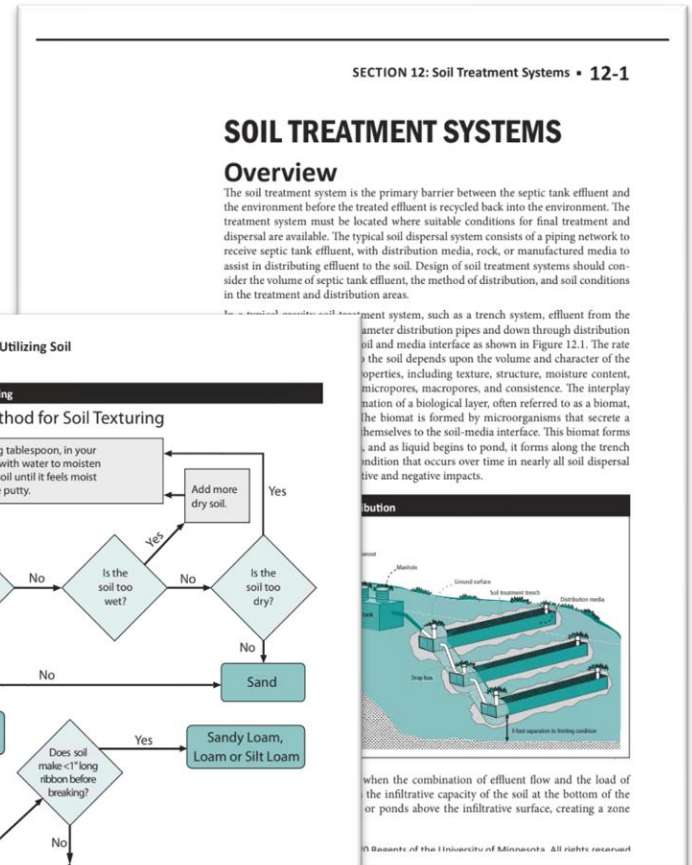
Host(s): [University of Minnesota Onsite Sewage Treatment Program](#)



Onsite Wastewater Manual

Manual for Septic Professionals in Minnesota

- 662-page manual from the University of Minnesota's Onsite Sewage Treatment Program.
- Provides guidance for onsite professionals including installers, designers, inspectors, maintainers, and service providers.
 - Developed in 1974
 - Updated in 2021 to include more information specific to requirements and conditions found in Minnesota.
- 14-chapters, covering topics including: treatment system design, wastewater plumbing, septic tank management, pumping systems, soil science, etc.
- Useful tables, figures, sketches, diagrams to help professionals visualize properly designed systems, ideal site conditions, operation and maintenance considerations and more.
- PDF's of individual chapters available. Chapter 13 includes useful tables to determine loading rates of absorption areas and list of useful mathematical equations and conversion factors.





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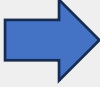
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| HOST ▼ Source Water Collaborative South Carolina Department of Health a Texas A&M On-Site Sewage Facilities Texas Commission on Environmental Q U.S. Environmental Protection Ager | Select... ▼ |  | Keyword: <input type="text"/> Filters HOST = 'U.S. Environmental Protection Agency' Reset All Retrieve Documents |
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Total Records: **63** - Showing Page: **1** of **7**

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- Title:** [2017 PISCES Recognition Program Compendium](#)

Summary: This 24-page report presents this year's PISCES projects in an annual compendium, with the hope that reading about successful projects will inspire continued success in the CWSRF.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/cwsrf-2017-pisces-recognition-program-compendium>

Host(s): [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- Title:** [A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems](#)

Summary: This 6-page document is based off of the booklet "A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems." This short brochure describes how a septic system works and what a homeowner can do to help the system treat their wastewater efficiently. Readers will gain the knowledge necessary to maintain their septic system properly.

Source: https://nepis.epa.gov/EPA/html/Pubs/pubalpha_H.html

Host(s): [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

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- Source Water Collaborative
- South Carolina Department of Health a
- Texas A&M On-Site Sewage Facilities
- Texas Commission on Environmental Q
- U.S. Environmental Protection Ager**

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HOST = 'U.S. Environmental Protection Agency'
Keyword = 'cluster systems'
[Reset All](#)

Retrieve Documents

Total Records:8 - Showing Page: 1 of 1

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- Title:** [Case Studies of Economic Analysis and Community Decision Making for Decentralized Wastewater Systems](#)

Summary: This 421-page report examines how communities consider and value the benefits and costs of different scale wastewater facility options (onsite, cluster, and centralized options) in monetary or other terms, and examines the driving issues, motivations, thought processes, and decision-making methods of stakeholders relative to choices of wastewater system scale. The report is intended to help communities facing wastewater system choices to better understand the implications of different options, so that communities can make better evaluations, and see how the decision process has played out in other communities, so that the process pitfalls encountered in some communities can be avoided, and the process successes of other communities emulated. The report is divided into two parts where part 1 of the report explains the research and presents its key findings (Chapters 1-5) and part 2 provides detailed case studies of how eight communities have managed wastewater planning issues (Chapters 6-13).

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-systems-case-studies>

Host(s): [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

Summary: This 14-page guide outlines EPA strategies to improve the performance of decentralized wastewater treatment systems. The report discusses the prevalence of decentralized systems and their historical background.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-systems-policy-and-regulations>

Host(s): [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

5. **Title:** [Design Manual Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems](#)

Summary: This 409-page manual, intended for those involved in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of onsite wastewater treatment systems, provides technical information on generic types of onsite wastewater treatment systems, strategies for selecting an onsite system, procedures for conducting a site evaluation, and disposal methods, discussion on appurtenances for onsite systems, an overview on management of onsite systems.

Source: [https://ordspub.epa.gov/ords/wfc/f?p=259:1::::](https://ordspub.epa.gov/ords/wfc/f?p=259:1:::)

Host(s): [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

6. **Title:** [Florida Department of Environmental Protection Onsite Sewage Programs Research Program](#)

Summary: The research program has many current and upcoming projects looking at how onsite sewage treatment systems affect human health and the environment. All documents are in the Portable Document Format (PDF). Projects include: Data Analyses to Investigate the Fate and Transport of Pollutants from Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems (2022 - Ongoing); Performance Evaluation of Inground Storage Tanks (2021 - Ongoing); Estimation of Failure or Non-Conformance Frequency of OSTDS (2019 - Ongoing); Development of Remediation and Upgrade (2018 - Ongoing). Upcoming Research Projects include: Performance Evaluation of Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems (OSTDS) in Florida.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-systems-demonstration-projects>

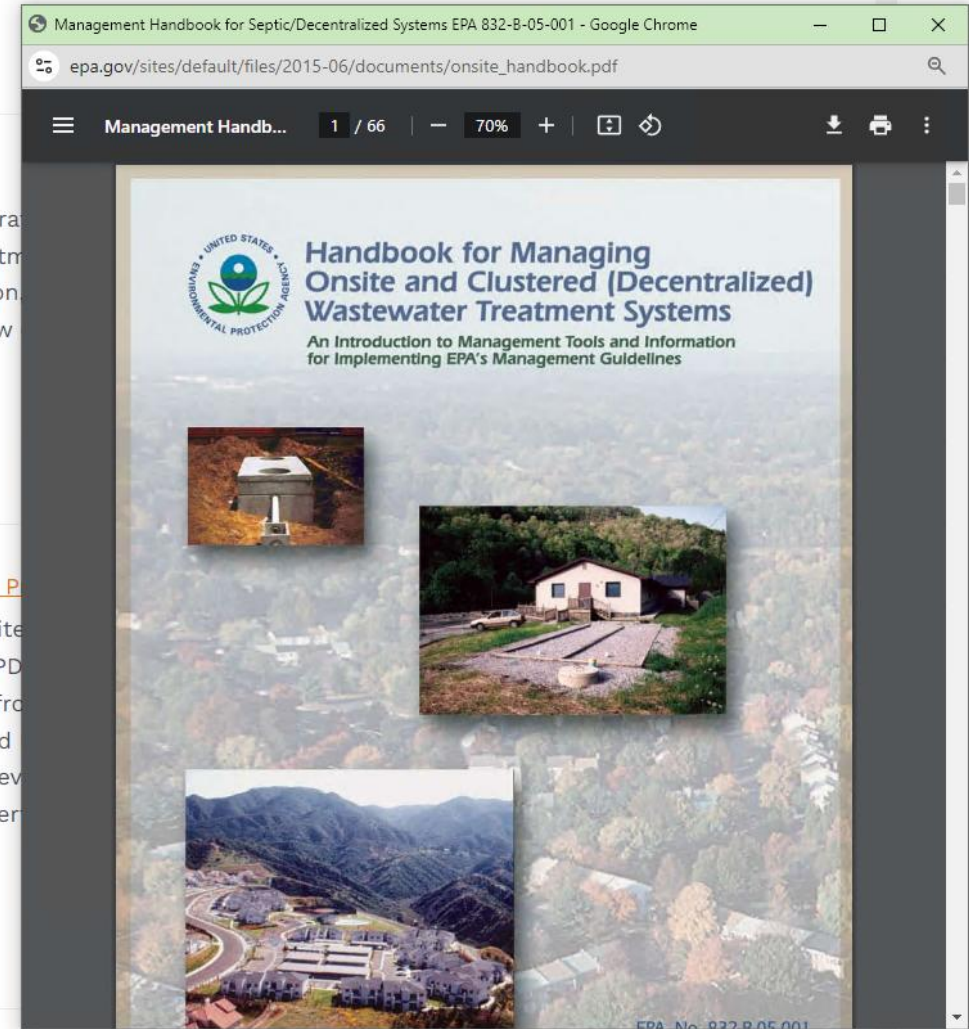
Host(s): [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)

7. **Title:** [Handbook for Managing Onsite and Clustered \(Decentralized\) Wastewater Treatment Systems](#)

Summary: This 66-page handbook provides an overview of key considerations for developing or enhancing management programs for decentralized wastewater treatment systems. The handbook also provide an introduction to management tools and information for implementing EPA's management guidelines.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-systems-reports-regulations-guidance-and-manuals>

Host(s): [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)



Onsite Wastewater Management Handbook

Handbook for Managing Onsite and Clustered (Decentralized) Wastewater Treatment Systems

- 66-page handbook from the USEPA for communities planning on implementing decentralized wastewater for long-term wastewater management.
- Provides a basic overview of the elements essential for proper management.
- Step-by-step process for developing a management plan.
- Includes list of factsheets and references covering topics such as:
 - Case studies
 - Public education
 - Financial assistance and funding
 - Alternative systems
 - System design
 - Inspection and monitoring, etc.




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Total Records:14 - Showing Page: 1 of 2

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- Title:** ["More Than Just Dirty" Pathogen Exposures to Workers in the On-Site Industry](#)

Summary: This 107-slide presentation provides research results on a study conducted to examine pathogen exposures in the on-site industry, discuss the various types of pathogen exposures and health impacts, what kind of pathogen exposures occur to on-site workers, and basic hygiene practices to reduce risks from handling human waste.

Source: https://www.nawt.org/covid_19.html

Host(s): [Washington Onsite Sewage Association](#)

- Title:** [Do-It-Yourself Septic System Inspection Field Guide](#)

Summary: This 39 page field guide intended for homeowners is from the Washington Department of Health. It includes a "Do-It-Yourself" (DIY) septic system inspection video and is to be used after viewing the video. Homeowners should use the guide during the inspection of their septic system. Checklists are provided in the guide to help homeowners. Once the inspection process is complete, homeowners can use the field guide's checklists to report to the local health department.

Source: <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/wastewater-management/septic-system/do-it-yourself-inspection-video>

Host(s): [Washington State Department of Health](#)



Do-It-Yourself Septic System Inspection Field Guide - Complete - Google Chrome

doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs/337-121.pdf?uid=64ecfb4c24af

Do-It-Yourself S... 13 / 39 66%

PAGE 12

OPENING YOUR SEPTIC TANK

Note: If your tank has 2 chambers, perform all steps on both the inlet and outlet sides of the septic tank.

1 

- SAFETY CHECK: WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, EYE PROTECTION AND GLOVES. AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE.
- SAFETY CHECK: INSPECT WITH ANOTHER PERSON PRESENT.
- Clear away dirt and debris from access riser lid area. (Note: Some tanks do not have risers. Dirt will need to be removed to access tank. Use caution lifting lids.)
- Remove riser lid.
- Carefully remove inside lid if present (the lid may be very heavy and require prying, avoid back strain).

2 

- SAFETY CHECK: KEEP OPEN LIDS IN FRONT OF YOU. FALLS MAY OCCUR WHEN PEOPLE STEP BACKWARDS INTO AN OPEN TANK.
- SAFETY CHECK: DON'T LEAVE OPEN TANKS UNATTENDED.

3 

- Check risers for watertightness. Run hose around outside of each riser to see if water seeps into tank. Does the riser appear to be watertight with no visible leaks?

Yes No Risers Not Present

4 

IF YOU ANSWERED "NO" TO ANY OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS, STOP YOUR INSPECTION AND CONTACT A PROFESSIONAL.

PAGE 13

IS YOUR TANK WORKING PROPERLY?



Onsite Wastewater Management Manual

Puget Sound Septic System Management Programs

- 89-page guidance manual from the WA DOH which discusses the many issues and challenges associated with the local wastewater management programs and compares the approaches used across the Puget Sound Region.
- Provides the fundamentals of a septic system management program and how best to gain public support.
- Includes a chapter highlighting the roles of service providers, their challenges in working in multiple local health districts, certification requirements, data management, best practices, etc.

How Puget Sound Septic System Management Programs Compare

A few Puget Sound septic system management programs have roots dating back to the 1970s and '80s (PSWQA 1994). However, most are younger and have received serious attention only since plans were adopted in 2007-08 under requirements of the current state on-site sewage system regulation, chapter 246-272A WAC, adopted in 2005. The code and management programs regulate domestic sewage from small on-site sewage systems that serve homes, restaurants, and other dispersed development across the region. On-site sewage systems are commonly known as septic systems and that's the "plain talk" term of choice in this document.

In 2014 the project team surveyed environmental health directors in the 12 Puget Sound counties on select elements and issues of the local septic system management programs (WDOH 2014g). The survey contained questions on system design and installation, repair of failing systems, professional certification, operation and maintenance (O&M) programs, incentives, data management, and enforcement. This chapter is based mainly on that survey. It compares different approaches and tries to explain how those differences influence the design and outcomes of local management programs.

The Puget Sound local septic system management programs represent 12 unique situations. The programs are shaped and prioritized under direction of the local health officer, decisions of local elected officials, and budgetary realities of the local governments. This ongoing process, which never involves a hard-and-fast formula, determines the structure and staffing levels (the number of environmental public health specialists) of the region's local program. Figure 5 sums approximate staffing levels for the local programs and the approximate number of septic systems in the 12 counties as of 2014.

| County | Number of Septic Systems | Number of Public Health Staff |
|-----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| San Juan | 8,000 | - |
| Jefferson | 13,500 | 2.7 |
| Skagit | 15,000 | 2.5 |
| Clallam | 20,000 | 2.5 |
| Mason | 25,800 | - |
| Whatcom | 29,000 | 4 |
| Island | 32,000 | - |
| Thurston | 53,000 | 8 |
| Kitsap | 58,000 | 8.5 |
| Snohomish | 75,000 | 4 |
| Pierce | 84,000 | 8 |
| King | 155,000 | 9 |

Figure 5. Puget Sound septic systems by county and local health jurisdiction staff involved in their program.

Introduction

On-site sewage systems are commonly referred to as septic systems. The term "septic system" is a bit of a misnomer when used to describe the diverse and advanced treatment of today's on-site sewage systems. For the purpose of this document, it's the "plain talk" term of choice and we use it throughout the document when describing the systems and the related management programs.

Septic systems treat domestic sewage from individual homes or small developments and infiltrate the property where it is generated. This wastewater infrastructure—as "decentralized" due to its dispersed nature—consists of an estimated 600,000 systems in the Puget Sound region (WDOH 2014a). Developing an accurate inventory and record of all systems is a challenge.



Statewide, this decentralized system consists of an estimated 940,000 systems (WDOH 2014d). The Puget Sound region is no exception.

Puget Sound cities, towns, and counties have grown at a high rate. Since 1960 alone, the population has swelled from about 1.8 million to nearly 4.8 million today (WOFM 2015). This growth has led to densely populated communities and housing developments that lie outside of municipal sewerage treatment plants. Septic systems have become a significant part of the regional infrastructure. Puget Sound is vulnerable to pollution from a variety of sources including septic systems. For this reason, permitting requirements and O&M requirements for septic systems are stricter in the Puget Sound region than the rest of the state. The health of Puget Sound relies, in part, on properly functioning septic systems.

As septic systems are generally out of sight, they can no longer be out of mind. The systems now in use are very different from the simple tank and gravity drainfield of the 1970s, and

Resource Library

Instructions: Select one or more filter criteria and then click the "Retrieve Documents" button.

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| | | |
|---|-----------|---|
| HOST Iowa Department of Natural Resources Iowa Onsite Waste Water Association Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection Maryland Department of the Environment Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Michigan Department of Environmental Protection | Select... | Keyword: <input type="text"/> |
| | | Filters HOST = 'Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection' Reset All Retrieve Documents |

Total Records: **23** - Showing Page: **1** of **3**

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- Title:** [Advanced Enviro-Septic Wastewater Treatment System](#)

Summary: The Advanced Enviro-Septic System (the 'System' or 'AES') is an alternative subsurface Soil Absorption System (SAS) that replaces a conventional SAS designed in accordance with 310 CMR 15.000. A soil absorption system filters and treats the septic tank effluent before it enters the groundwater. The system passively creates a powerful biological ecosystem that continually digests organic matter in wastewater. Each unit of pipe is 10 feet long and has an outside diameter of 12 inches. AES also features the Bio-Accelerator® fabric, which speeds the development of the biomat and allows for distribution of wastewater along the entire length of the pipes. The AES treatment system has been proven to remove up to 99% of wastewater impurities without the need for electricity or replacement media. This innovative/alternative onsite wastewater system technology is approved under MassDEP's Title 5 Regulations that can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/approved-title-5-innovativealternative-technologies>.

Source: <https://www.masstc.org/technologies>

Host(s): [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#)

Host(s): [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#)

3. **Title:** [Aerobic Recovery System/Aero-Stream Aerobic Septic System R](#)

Summary: The Aero-Stream Aerobic Septic System Restoration Process (SAS) reduces the strength of the wastewater received by the existing system. The effluent is pumped to remove settled solids. Aerobic treatment is established in the SAS. The aerator mixes the contents of the septic tank with the bacteria in the wastewater in the septic tank. The aerated effluent from the SAS, thereby improving the soil absorption capacity. This innovation is consistent with MassDEP's Title 5 Regulations that can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/501cmr00000>

Source: <https://www.masstc.org/technologies>

Host(s): [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#)

4. **Title:** [Anua PuraSys SBR/ Puraflo Peat Fiber System](#)

Summary: The combination PuraSys SBR/Puraflo Peat Fiber Biofilter System is used when soil or site conditions make conventional soil absorption systems impractical. The secondary treatment system is periodically pumped at set intervals. The polished effluent flows to a gravel bed. This innovative/alternative technology is consistent with Title 5 Regulations that can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/501cmr00000>

Source: <https://www.masstc.org/technologies>

Host(s): [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#)

5. **Title:** [Approved Title 5 innovative/alternative technologies](#)

Summary: This webpage provides a list of MassDEP approved innovative/alternative technologies. There are 4 categories of approvals. General use systems, which are approved as an alternative to a conventional onsite system. Piloted systems which are intended to determine if a new technology can or cannot function effectively. Provisional use systems which are under evaluation as they appear to provide the same level of protection as standard systems. Remedial use systems which improve existing conditions at a particular facility served by a failing system.

Source: <https://www.mass.gov/septic-systems-title-5>

Host(s): [Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection](#)

Approved Title 5 innovative/alternative technologies | Mass.gov - Google Chrome

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Home > MassDEP > Septic systems & Title 5

OFFERED BY Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Approved Title 5 innovative/alternative technologies

MassDEP must approve alternative septic systems for use in Massachusetts.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Overview
- Best Available Nitrogen Reducing Technologies
- All Technologies Approved for Use
- Approved for General Use
- Approved for Provisional Use
- Approved for Piloting Use
- Approved for Remedial Use
- Effluent Tee Filters
- Expired or Inactive Technology Permits
- Contact

Feedback



Innovative/Alternative System Resources

MassDEP – Approved Title 5 Innovative/Alternative Technologies

- Title 5 regulations govern the design, installation, and maintenance of septic systems in Massachusetts.
- Innovative/alternative septic-system technologies must be approved by the agency before it can be used.
- List of technologies currently approved for general use, pilot testing, provisional use, and remedial use.
- Each technology is accompanied with individual factsheets which provide information on design standards, O&M, inspection, etc.

Approved for General Use

Through broad field use in Massachusetts or other states, alternative systems for General Use will provide a level of environmental protection at least equal to that of a conventional on-site system designed in accordance with 310 CMR 15.000. These systems can be used anywhere a conventional Title 5 system can be used. The system owner is required to have inspection and testing performed as required on a regular schedule. All alternatives in other categories of approval could be certified for General Use. Contact the manufacturer for schematics of these systems.

Inspection and Sampling in Single Family Homes

- **Inspection and O&M Form for Title 5 I/A Treatment and Disposal Systems**
This form is to be used to report inspection and sampling results for individual septic system designs approved under Title 5.

General Use

| Company | Technology | Design Flow | Technology Description |
|---|--|---------------------------|--|
| Generic | Composting Toilets | Compliant with Title 5 | Composting Toilets |
| | Composting toilets are approved for use under Title 5. See 310 CMR 15.289. | | |
| Generic | Recirculating Sand Filter Approval | Compliant with Title 5 | Nitrogen Reduction 660 GPD/acre w/ TN <19 mg/l 550 GPD/acre w/ TN <25 mg/l |
| | Other Documents: 1 | | |
| Oreco Systems, Inc. 814 Airway Avenue Sutherlin, OR 97479 | Advantex Treatment System, Nitrogen reduction by Oreco System, Inc. Approval | Residential <2,000 GPD | Nitrogen Reduction 660 GPD/acre w/ TN <19 mg/l 550 GPD/acre w/ TN <25 mg/l |
| | Other Documents: 1 | | |
| AquaPoint 3 LLC 39 Tarklin Place New Bedford, MA 02745 | Bioclere Technology by AquaPoint 3, LLC Approval | Residential <2,000 GPD | Nitrogen Reduction 660 GPD/acre w/ TN <19 mg/l 550 GPD/acre w/ TN <25 mg/l |

Piloting Approval Renewal, issued August 04, 2021.
Bio-Microbics BioBarrier MBR Wastewater Treatment System

Page 3 of 21

primary sedimentation and floatable retention. On the outlet side in this first compartment is a SanITEE® screen, to provide screening. The second compartment serves as the anoxic zone and contains a mixing pump. The third compartment is the aeration zone containing the membrane module, a permeate pump and an air supply from the System's remote installed blower unit. The membrane module consists of flat sheet membranes arranged in a cartridge. A high mixed liquor suspended solids concentration in the aeration zone provides biological treatment and nitrification. A portion of the nitrified wastewater is returned to the anoxic chamber for denitrification by the mixing pump action via patent pending ports in the baffle wall separating the two zones. The final effluent or permeate is pulled out by the permeate pump through the MBR membranes leaving behind large organic and inorganic particles for further digestion or wasting.

The MBR is cleaned in place according to instructions in Service Manual.

The System may be equipped with chemical feed to provide a carbon source for anoxic denitrification when required by the wastewater constituents. The aeration system runs when the permeate pump is activated by a float system. The aeration system provides scouring for the membranes and oxygen to the biological process. When the permeate pump is not running the aeration system runs on a timer that activates the blower based on a pre-determined time. The off time provides a resting period for the MBR unit. The rest periods allow the membranes to relax which helps in membrane filtration capability. When the aeration operates the solids are broken up by turbulence.

All pumps, timers, and aeration equipment are controlled at the control panel. Final effluent disposal at the SAS is by either pressure distribution or gravity.

Approved System models and associated flow rates are as follows:

| System Models | Flow Rate (gal/day) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| BioBarrier MBR 0.5-N | 500 |
| BioBarrier MBR 1.0-N | 1,000 |
| BioBarrier MBR 1.5-N | 1,500 |
| BioBarrier MBR 2.0-N | 2,000 |
| BioBarrier HSMBR 1.5-SN or 1.5-DN | 1,500 |
| BioBarrier HSMBR 3.0-SN or 3.0-DN | 3,000 |
| BioBarrier HSMBR 4.5-SN or 4.5-DN | 4,500 |
| BioBarrier HSMBR 6.0-SN or 6.0-DN | 6,000 |
| BioBarrier HSMBR 9.0-SN or 9.0-DN | 9,000 |

III. Site Application, Design and Installation Requirements

1. Each proposed site-specific use of the System to be piloted must be reviewed by the Department prior to installation of the System. The Owner shall submit to the Department the written approval of the Local Approving Authority (LAA or BOH), together with a copy of the completed Department application BRP WP 64b and obtain Department written approval as required by 310 CMR 15.285(2).

Events Calendar



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Event Calendar

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Contact Us

Phone: 1-866-522-2681

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- Select...
- CATEGORY
- TYPE
- STATE
- SPONSOR

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- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Texas**

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| | | 1 | 2 TEEX OSSF - Homeowner Aerobic Treatment & Surface Appl. System Op. and Maint - 10/2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 TEEX OSSF - Onsite Installer I - 10/7 HAC Water Utility Safety | 8 ETS Electrical Wiring and Connections - 10/8 | 9 TEEX OSSF - Onsite Installer II - 10/9 | 10 TXOWA Onsite Basic Maintenance Provider Course - October | 11 | 12 |
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Event Calendar

Event List - Google Chrome

events.decentralizedwastewater.org/calendar_list2_dwo.aspx?f1=STATE&fv1=Texas&f2=Select...&fv2=&fv3=...

City: Carrollton
State: Texas

10/08/2024 **Title:** [ETS Electrical Wiring and Connections - 10/8](#)
Sponsor(s): Environmental Training Systems

City: Live Online
State:

10/09/2024 **Title:** [TEEX OSSF - Onsite Installer II - 10/9](#)
Sponsor(s): Texas Engineering Extension Service

City: Bryan
State: Texas

10/10/2024 **Title:** [TXOWA Onsite Basic Maintenance Provider Course - October](#)
Sponsor(s): Texas Onsite Wastewater Association

City: San Marcos
State: Texas

10/11/2024 **Title:** [HAC Confined Space Awareness](#)
Sponsor(s): Hardin Associates & Consulting

City: Carrollton
State: Texas

10/15/2024 **Title:** [ETS Installation, Operation & Maintenance of Subsurface Drip Disposal Systems - 10/15](#)



...a keyword filter). Then, click on an event to see details.

...could be featured, email us at info@decentralizedwastewater.org and we will take a look! Also,

Keyword:

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STATE = 'Texas'

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| 8 | 24 ETS Troubleshooting & Repair of Aerobic Treatment Units - 10/24 | 25 | 26 ETS Troubleshooting & Repair of Aerobic Treatment Units - 10/26 |
| 3 | 31 | | |

TXOWA Onsite Basic Maintenance Provider Course - October

Start Date: 10/10/2024

End Date: 10/11/2024

City: San Marcos

State: Texas

Location: Embassy Suites San Marcos

Start Time: 8:00 AM

Event Info: <https://txowa.org/calendar-of-events/>

For More Info: <https://towa21.wufoo.com/forms/zrlj1hw0uv8yvvd/>

Details: This introductory Basic Maintenance Provider course can earn you 16 CEU hours toward all current OSSF licenses, even if you have taken the course in previous years. The course is two days, but if you need only 8 hours, the first day of the course may be taken.

Costs: \$355 for Certification course OR 16 hour Continuing Education course, \$175 for 8 hour Continuing Education course

Contact Information

Name: Emma Alvarado

Phone: *Not Specified*

Email: emmaalvarado8815@gmail.com

Sponsor(s): [Texas Onsite Wastewater Association](#)

Fee: \$355.00

Continuing Education

Event Credit: 16 CEU

Accepted in: Texas

Calendar

(or use a keyword filter). Then, click on an event to see details.

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TYPE

- certification exam
- conference/symposium
- seminar/meeting
- training/workshop
- webinar/live online**

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Event Calendar

IWT Specifying Solutions: A Guide to Wastewater Treatment Design and Product Choice

Start Date: 11/13/2024

End Date: *One Day Event*

City: Live Online

State: *Not Specified*

Location: Eastern Daylight Time

Start Time: 1:00 PM

Event Info: <https://www.infiltratorwater.com/webinars/2024/11/13/specifying-solutions-a-guide-to-wastewater-treatment-design-and-product-choice/>

For More Info: *Not Specified*

Detail: This is a free live webinar hosted by Infiltrator Water Technologies. In this day and age, there are a multitude of products and technologies to specify from in the Onsite Wastewater Industry. The right system and components can improve system performance and function, reduce the cost to the customer, reduce operation and maintenance, and possibly reduce the overall system footprint. An understanding of the project site conditions is instrumental in making the best choice possible. This presentation will cover the design of onsite wastewater systems from the evaluation of these site conditions, to the available products and technologies, to the design itself.

Attendance approved for 1 credit hour by the following states/organizations/licenses:

- Florida - Florida Professional Engineers
- Georgia - REHS
- IOWWA - CIOWTS
- Maine - Local Plumbing Inspectors, Site Evaluator, Voluntary Certification for On-Site System Contractors
- Nebraska - Onsite Wastewater System Contractors
- New Hampshire - Designers & Installers
- New York - Land Surveyors, Professional Engineers

Contact Information

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By Laura Schultz • August 22, 2024

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By Laura Schultz • August 16, 2024

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HELPFUL INFORMATION

Getting Ready For SepticSmart Week 2024

By Laura Schultz • August 16, 2024


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This year's SepticSmart Week is just one month away! The 12th annual celebration of the event will run from September 16-20, and provide the opportunity for communities, national organizations, local groups, and governments to come together to bring attention to the importance of caring for and maintaining septic systems through homeowner education and public outreach.

Remember, there are seven principles for homeowner septic care that the SepticSmart program works to share. You can find videos and other digital resources advertising these principles to share with homeowners in the links below!


- 1. Think at the Sink!** What goes down the drain has a big impact on your septic system. Fats, grease, and solids can clog a system's pipes and drainfield.
- 2. Don't Overload the Commode!** A toilet is not a trash can. Disposable diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products, coffee grounds, cigarette butts, and cat litter can damage a septic system.
- 3. Don't Strain Your Drain!** Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances. Too much water use at once can overload a system that hasn't been pumped recently.
- 4. Shield Your Field!** Tree and shrub roots, cars, and livestock can damage your septic

DecentralizedWastewater.org Newsletter for June 2024



From the Trenches

A DecentralizedWastewater.org Newsletter



Technical Assistance Available at EPA

The "Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap" initiative at the EPA offers free technical assistance for communities with failing decentralized wastewater systems, or no existing wastewater systems at all. If your community or a community you know of needs assistance, you can request it [at this webform](#).

Does your community have septic system or decentralized wastewater challenges?

- Do septic systems back up into homes or cause sewage to pool in yards?
- Does the town or country struggle to provide adequate sanitation services to its residents?
- Does the community struggle to rebuild damaged or non-functioning wastewater and septic systems?

More information [can be found here](#). You can also email SepticHelp@epa.gov with questions.

Thanks for your time!

Hideyuki Terashima
(217) 300-7579
terashi1@Illinois.edu

Steven D. Wilson
(217) 333-0956
sdwilson@Illinois.edu