

# COLES COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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We would also like to take this opportunity to outline some of the basic requirements for the installation and repairs of private sewage disposal systems in Coles County:

- the new Illinois Private Sewage Disposal Code requires that an adequate site evaluation be performed prior to submitting an application. This will help identify potential need for variances. Field variances will not be given for items that are required to be identified on the application. Plans or drawings are to be reasonably to scale indicating the lot size with dimensions showing the location of the system, type of system to be constructed, the dimensions and length of laterals to be installed, distances to water lines, water wells, potable water storage tanks, and buildings, site elevations and ground surface elevations sufficient to determine the elevation of system components and the slope of the ground surface, location of sanitary sewer, if available, and typical cross section of the system. Permit applications will be rejected if they lack the required information. Permit application that are incomplete will be returned.
- permit applications are required to be submitted to this office for evaluation and approval a minimum of 24 hours prior to starting a job. No work shall be started nor will any inspections be made, until a permit has been submitted to this office. This will be enforced this year. We have a fax number by which applications can be submitted. We understand there may be emergency situations and they will be handled on a case by case basis.
- whenever an easement is required, the easement is to be recorded in the County Clerk's office and a copy included with the permit application. No work on a private sewage disposal system shall start until an easement has been recorded.
- percolation tests take two days and require a 24 hour notification to this office prior to starting the test. If you do not have a current copy of the Coles County Percolation Tests Worksheet please contact this office.
- a sample port is to be provided on the effluent line from systems with surface discharges, unless a free fall discharge from the system is easily accessible.
- four bedroom homes with more than two baths for which an aerobic system is proposed will require an aerobic treatment system capable of treating a minimum of 600 gallons per day. Please consult us for larger homes.

- every effort will be made to keep the effluent on the property. Whenever a discharge may leave the property, an effluent receiving trench, 300 square feet, must be installed. Some subdivisions do require a larger effluent receiving trench (Sugar Creek, Marksborough, etc.), so please check with us when proposing a system in a subdivision. In addition, if the house is more than three bedrooms, a larger effluent receiving trench will be required. A bypass for when the effluent receiving trench is full will need to be installed which will direct the treated effluent to a chlorinator and evaporation bed prior to leaving the property. A 60 square foot evaporation bed may be required if the discharge from the effluent receiving trench will pond or create a nuisance on the property. The evaporation bed shall not be closer than ten (10) feet from the property line.
- there shall be no connections such as joints, splices, or fittings within the area of the overdig around the septic tank. (Section 905.40(e)(3)). If it can not be avoided the overdig area will be required to be backfilled with sand.
- chlorinators will be required for all surface discharging wastewater treatment systems.
- animal guards are required at the outlets of surface discharge tiles and on sand filter vents.
- alarms for aeration systems and lift stations are required by Code to be located within the building served. If located in an attached garage, the garage must have an internal door to the building. A variance request will be required to be submitted with the permit application if this is not possible.
- buried sand filters shall be constructed according to the Coles County Buried Sand Filter Handout. Copies are available at this office.
- Section 8.4 of the Coles County Private Sewage Disposal System Ordinance prohibits backfilling any portion of a private sewage disposal system prior to being inspected. If the sanitarian determines that the portion is questionable, you will be required to uncover that portion. Otherwise, any portion of the system that is backfilled prior to being inspected will be noted on the final inspection report and conditional approval will be given for the system.

If you have any questions or if you are not sure about requirements please do not hesitate to give us a call. Although we may not always be available, we will return your call as soon as possible.