



## ***KENTUCKY***

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Or

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Construction Standards for Components of Onsite  
Sewage Disposal Systems  
902 KAR 10:081

Kentucky Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems Regulation  
902 KAR 10:085  
Revised August 2002

Onsite regulations for Kentucky were last revised in 2002. Regulations are currently not under revision.

Kentucky codes are not currently performance based but they do utilize performance criteria in approvals of experimental technologies specifically those technologies not listed within our current regulations, such as drip irrigation, peat filters, media filters, alternative media, etc.

For technologies not listed in state code, Kentucky will evaluate them; designate them as experimental; and assign approval parameters, monitoring protocols, installation restrictions, and O&M policies. A limited numbers of installations will then be allowed in variable soil types to gauge viability. The systems will be tracked for three years and then a determination will be made if the technology is approved for use in the state.

State Code recognizes management programs to monitor and maintain onsite systems. All alternative technology systems are only approved with an O&M agreement in place in the county of approval. The county must adopt this O&M ordinance. Kentucky is working to expand their O&M programs.

In Kentucky, the local health department Environmentalist/Registered Sanitarian, or a licensed P.E. conducts site evaluations before onsite systems are installed. The state requires onsite professionals to be certified. The local health department Environmentalist must be a Registered Sanitarian; obtain a certification of completion of a special Soils Class from the University of Kentucky; and complete and pass testing in Phase I, Phase II, and Full Certification Classes in Onsite Sewage to become a Certified Onsite Sewage Disposal Inspector. A Registered Sanitarian license is renewable upon completion of 10 CEUs per year. Onsite Sewage Disposal System Installers are required to be certified (initial testing process) and complete 6 CEUs per year for license renewal. The Onsite Sewage Disposal Inspector certification is permanent once obtained. The State Environmental Management Branch provides certification training and CEUs for inspectors and installers.

Local health department Environmentalists conduct inspections requested by homeowners. The cost for an inspection varies by county.

Kentucky does not utilize percolation tests. A site evaluation is required that takes into account: slope, landscape position; soil texture and group; soil structure; internal soil drainage; soil depth; restrictive horizons; and available space. Site evaluations are accomplished through field investigations and evaluation of soil borings through 3 inch core samples or backhoe pits to a depth of at least 42 inches. Soil morphology is required in this process.

Onsite systems permits are issued at the local level. Experimental affidavits and O&M requirements are attached to permits requesting the use of alternative/experimental/innovative technologies.

Accordingly, State Revolving Funds (SRFs) cannot be used to assist individual homeowners to repair a failing or malfunctioning system; replace a failing or malfunctioning system; or for new construction.

Specific onsite wastewater demonstration, research, or testing projects are ongoing in the State. Questions may be directed to:

The Preston Project, Bath County  
Mike Mattox, Gateway District Health Department  
(606) 674-6396

Kentucky Onsite Wastewater Association  
PO Box 253  
Springfield, KY 40069  
(859) 336-0896