



OKLAHOMA

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<http://www.deq.state.ok.us/rules/641.pdf>

OAC
INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL PUBLIC ON-SITE SEWAGE
DISPOSAL SYSTEMS
252:641

As of June 31, 2003 these regulations were not currently under revision. They will be looking for minor clarifications within the regulations by May 31, 2004.

All rules and regulations apply statewide and can not be made more stringent on the local level.

Those technologies approved for onsite wastewater treatment and disposal in Oklahoma include:

- Conventional systems—Gravel subsurface, lagoon, and aerobic systems.
- Alternative systems—Wetland systems, minor variations to the rules, polystyrene (gravel substitute) systems, and 30% linear foot reduction for certain chamber systems.

Proposed technologies not listed in the state code are reviewed by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) managers. A determination is made concerning sizing of the system along with whether the system will be allowed in Oklahoma.

State Code does not allow for drainfield area/size reduction.

Currently, there are no onsite wastewater demonstration, research, or testing projects ongoing in Oklahoma.

A funding program exists to assist homeowners either replacing or repairing a failing system. Questions may be directed to Huber (above). There are not, however, any counties or communities within the state that have a revolving loan fund or other financial assistance programs for individual homeowners.

Pre-sale inspections are required by Oklahoma for onsite wastewater systems during property transfers. This is not a state requirement, but performed on existing system evaluations at the request of the lending institution. It costs \$55 dollars for inspection of exiting systems and \$30 for authorization/permit for the construction of a new system.

The state tracks the number of permits issued per year for new construction and for system repair and replacement. These records are maintained at both the local and state levels. Different permits are also required for the alternative/experimental/innovative technologies. Supplemental Application for Alternative System must be submitted and approved prior to issuance of a permit to construct.

Oklahoma Code requires maintenance/management contracts to monitor and maintain aerobic treatment units (ATUs). The state has sole authority to adopt or require maintenance/management programs. They encourage ongoing maintenance and are currently collecting data to determine how effective the program is functioning.

In Oklahoma, onsite system failure occurs when wastewater is discharged to the surface of the ground. Multiple factors, such as poor installation/construction and/or lack of proper maintenance, are generally responsible for system failure.

Periodic inspections are not required by the state for investigating the performance and operation of onsite systems.

Oklahoma conducts a licensing/certification program for onsite wastewater professionals, and a list of certified individuals is available. In Oklahoma, DEQ employees or certified onsite system installers may perform inspections of onsite system construction. DEQ employees, Registered Professional Sanitarian, Registered Professional Environmental Specialist, Licensed Sanitarian, and Professional Engineers may perform soil percolation tests, or soil profiles when certified by the DEQ. Soil technicians may also perform soil profiles with DEQ certification.

Minimum setback/separation distances include:

	<u>Septic Tank</u>	<u>Drainfield</u>
• Dwelling/structure -	5'	5'
• Well-private well -	50'	50'
• Surface water -	50'	50'
• Property lines -	5'	5'
• Seasonal high water table/limiting layer -	-	18"
• Wetlands -	-	-

Questions relevant to municipal wastewater regulations may be directed to:

Mr. Carl Parrott
Oklahoma DEQ
(406) 702-8100