



Note: Information contained below for the State of Oregon is from 2002. Updated information was not available at the time of creation for this document. Contact Mr. Uri Papish, to check accuracy of information contained in this section.

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Oregon Administrative Rules for On-Site Sewage Disposal
Chapter 340, Divisions 71
December 14, 2001

Oregon Administrative Rules for On-Site Sewage Disposal
Chapter 340, Division 73
August 24, 2000

The State of Oregon's onsite regulations were last updated in December 14, 2001; however, revisions are currently underway. There will be technical revisions, operating permits for single-family residences, customer service improvements, and possibly certification for installers. The expected effective date is Spring 2003.

Technologies approved for onsite wastewater treatment and disposal include standard systems (septic tank and drainfield), recirculating gravel filters, sand filters, aerobic systems, capping fill, and technologies approved by NSF. Systems not specifically listed in the onsite rules (installation permits) can be permitted through the State Water Pollution Control Facilities permit process (operating permits).

Oregon Code allows drainfield area/size reductions. Alternative drainfield products are approved based on demonstrated performance compared to the standard trench. If performance at reduced lengths is demonstrated, an approval would be granted.

There are no funding programs/mechanisms available to assist homeowners replacing failing systems or installing new systems, and there are no plans to develop such a mechanism.

Onsite wastewater demonstration, research, and/or testing projects exist in Oregon. For information, contact:

Ms. Barbara Rich
Coordinator, La Pine Project
(541) 617-4713
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In Oregon, the state has sole authority to adopt or require maintenance/management programs. System management/maintenance programs/contracts for onsite systems are not required, but the State expects to implement some kind of O&M program within the next year.

In Oregon, a failing system means one that discharges untreated or incompletely treated sewage or septic tank effluent directly or indirectly onto the ground surface or into public waters (in Oregon, “public waters” includes groundwater). The most common reason for system failure in the state is cited as overuse by residents. If a system is considered to be failing or has failed, the owner is required to get a repair permit by submitting an application and plan for repair.

There is no funding or financing option for individual homeowners for the repair or replacement of failing or malfunctioning systems, nor for new construction.

There is no pre-sale inspection protocol in Oregon for onsite wastewater systems during property transfers. Regular inspections are not required by the state for investigating the performance and operation of onsite systems after initial construction. If a homeowner requests an inspection, either a state or county inspector could do the inspection. A fee for an inspection by a state or county inspector is set by Rule. Otherwise, anyone could do the inspection.

There are no known programs in the state that offer homeowners insurance policies for their onsite treatment systems.

The State of Oregon does not require the use of septic tank effluent filters for onsite wastewater treatment systems.

There is no minimum lot size in Oregon’s onsite rules. Any lot that can meet the criteria for a septic system can be approved. State land use law requires all counties to set minimum lot sizes outside an urban growth area to limit development of farm and forest lands.

Information regarding municipal wastewater regulations may be obtained from:

Mr. Mike Korten Hof, Manager
Department of Environmental Quality
(503) 299-6066