

QUESTIONS? CALL (806) 378-9474

On Site Sewage Facilities

Permits and inspections are required for every septic system installation in Potter and Randall Counties



Single family residential owners can permit and install their septic System

- **Have a properly assigned address**
- Hire a Site evaluator to determine the type of soils
- Apply for a permit to install
- Schedule an inspection
- Pass the final inspection and receive the permit to operate

Environmental Health Department
Amarillo Bi-City-County Health District
PO Box 1971
Amarillo Texas 79105

Phone: 806 378-9472
Fax: 806 378-3585
E-mail ehealth@amarillo.gov

Addresses are assigned by the City of Amarillo in the 5 mile extra territorial jurisdiction. If your land is outside this area, then your address is assigned by 911.

Call: 378-3041 (City of Amarillo)

374-9800 (911 business line)

This handout is only a summary of the rules. If you want access to the entire rules, they can be found at the link shown below:

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=30&pt=1&ch=285](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=30&pt=1&ch=285)

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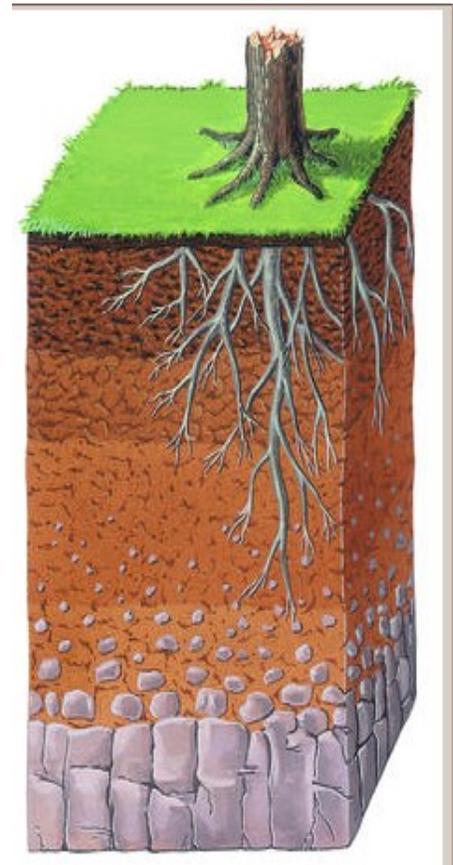
Site Evaluation

This is the first step and you must hire a licensed person

CALL OUR OFFICE FOR A LIST OF LICENSED SITE EVALUATORS

The State law requires this step must be performed by a person who is licensed by the State as a Professional Site Evaluator. This person will complete the site evaluation form that must accompany your application to install an on site sewage system. We maintain a list of people licensed and you may also retrieve this information from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's website. (TCEQ). The link to this list is:

http://www5.tceq.state.tx.us/lic_dpa/



WHAT KIND OF ON-SITE SYSTEM IS PLANNED?

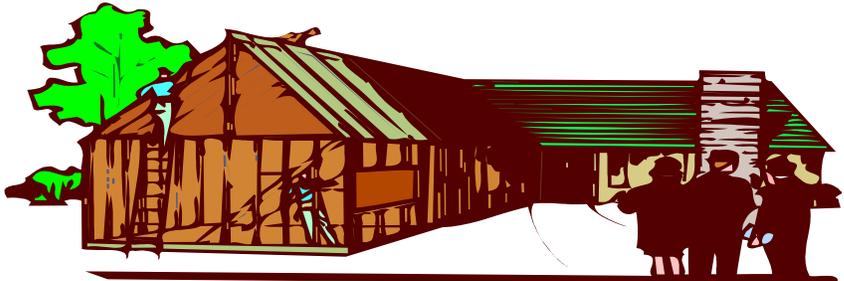
Based on the soil texture analysis of the site evaluator, you can size the drain field. Most of the soils in Potter and Randall county are clay loams which are Class III soils. The soils must be evaluated to a depth of two feet below the bottom of the proposed drain field. Clay and rock are restrictive horizons and the groundwater may prohibit the installation of a standard system. If your tract of land is unsuitable, then consult a licensed installer for options and non-standard installations. If you must install a non-standard system, a professional installer must be hired. Be sure your site evaluator consults the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps to determine if your OSSF is in a 100 year flood boundary.

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Tank and Drain field sizing

Once we know the type of soils we can help you determine the size of your OSSF

Number of bedrooms and square footage



Number of bedrooms	Square footage	Tank size in gallons
1 to 2	less than 1,500	750
3	less than 2,500	1000
4	less than 3,500	1250

750 gallon tanks that have two compartments may be more expensive and hard to find. You can always install a larger tank than the minimum shown above or install two tanks in a series

Tank requirements:

a metal tank is prohibited and cannot be used

- Concrete, fiberglass or plastic polyethylene are approved
- Inspection or clean out ports must be located on top of tank
- If buried more than 12 inches must have risers to at least 6 inches below ground surface so the tanks can always be found
- Tank must be installed level and covered with soil
- 4 inches of sand, sandy loam, clay loam or pea gravel must be placed around and under all tanks

Piping size and strength

*Leaching chambers, pipe and gravel and gravel less systems are allowed to be utilized.
The bottom of the drain field is installed level*



If your house is not new, you may have orangeburg pipe. We can help you determine if the pipe can tie into the on site sewage system. The pipe to the tank must be **at least 3 inches inside diameter.**



Pipe from the sewer stub out to the tank must be cast iron, ductile iron, pvc schedule 40, or SDR 26. The pipe must be water tight and the **slope must be no less than 1/8 inch of fall per foot of pipe.** A two-way cleanout plug must be installed between the sewer stub out and the treatment tank. The fitting must be PVC schedule 40 or SDR 26. An additional cleanout must be installed every 50 feet and within five feet of 90 degree bends.



Call our office for sizing help with gravel and gravel less systems

All piping from the tank to the disposal system must be at least

- 3 inches in diameter
- at least SDR 35 pvc or equivalent strength

There must be at least 5 feet between tank and disposal field.

How many **3** foot wide chambers do I need?

Biodiffuser, Hancor and Infiltrator brand

Soil	gallons per day (from site evaluation form)	Number of panels
III	225	22
	300	29
	375	36

If you do not find your soil type and/or gpd, call our office at 378-9474 for sizing

Excavation

- Bottom must be level
- Must be at least 18 inches deep
- Bottom of the trench must be at least 12 inches below the bottom of the outlet of the septic tank
- Each trench must be no deeper than 5 feet
- Each trench must be 150 feet or shorter
- Each trench must be at least 18 inches wide
- Each trench must be separated by at least three feet of undisturbed soil



Tips to make your OSSF last

Prevent surface runoff from flowing onto drain field

Do not allow rain from gutters to flow onto drain field

Pump your tank at regular intervals

Do not build porches or buildings over your drain field

Do not treat the system like a municipal system and conserve water

Ready to start?

Then follow these steps to permit and inspect your on site sewage system:

Apply for a permit to start construction

Use the form and answer all the questions have a copy of the site evaluation with the application.

Application fee: \$160.00

Must be paid at the time the application is submitted to our office

Review of application

Our office will review each question and the site evaluation and call you when you can start if the standards in State law have been met

We will issue the permit to construct and may visit the site

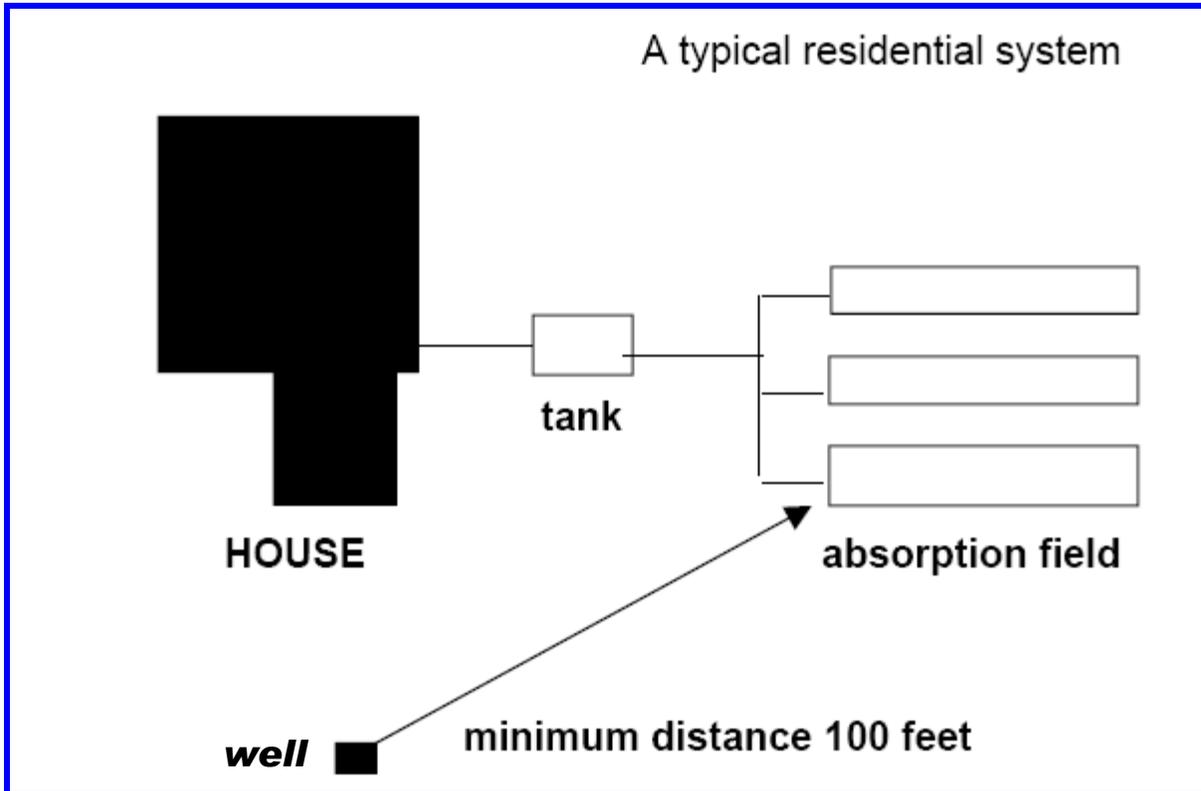
You start work and install the system

Call our office to schedule an inspection before you cover or backfill any of your work

If you call our office at 378-9474 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday before 9 am we can generally schedule an inspection the same day.

When you pass the inspection

Our office will issue a permit to operate the on site sewage system and will maintain the details as a permanent record



Maintenance and Operations Tips

Avoid disposing of grease down the drain

Do not use the toilet as a trash can

Heavy equipment driven over the drain field may cause damage

Chemical additives are not necessary for the septic tank to operate

Liquid in the septic tank and drain field can contain viruses and bacteria that may cause illness so do not come in direct contact with any liquids from your on site sewage system

Excessive watering over the drain field can cause the system to become saturated

Remember to conserve water and this will reduce the amount of waste water you generate