

CHELAN-DOUGLAS HEALTH DISTRICT

ONSITE SEPTIC SYSTEM PROGRAM UPDATES



END OF SEASON

Winter season will be upon us in a few weeks or months. Please be advised that our office may not be able to conduct all septic system inspections.

Field inspections requested by installers, complainants, and/or clients during adverse weather conditions will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

The two (2) primary factors that contribute to delaying or denying inspection requests are safety conditions and field conditions.

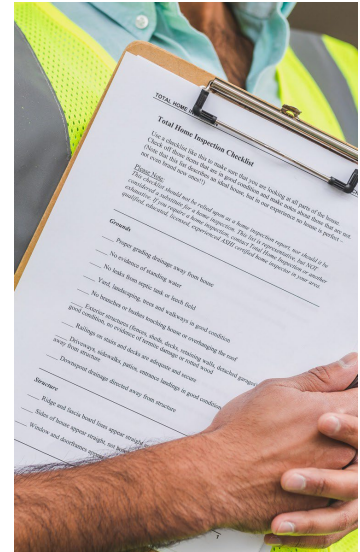
SAFETY CONDITIONS

Adverse weather conditions combined with remote destinations, high elevations, and unpaved roads pose a serious safety issue to Environmental Health Inspectors travelling to these sites.

Current vehicles are not properly equipped to reasonably access these inspection sites during adverse weather conditions.

Remote areas are of particular concern due to the lack of mobile service in these areas.

The safety of our inspectors is a primary responsibility of Chelan-Douglas Health District and should be prioritized during adverse weather conditions



FIELD CONDITIONS

Approving septic system installations during or after adverse weather conditions places an increased liability on Chelan-Douglas Health District for the following reasons (based on the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual (EPA) :

Construction (Installation) Practices.

· Soil porosity is a critical factor in determining the satisfactory performance of an onsite septic system. Adverse weather conditions create an excessive amount of moisture to the surface as well as raises ground water tables. Any work conducted in this environment results in compacting of soils in and around the designated septic system area and drainfield reserve area.

· Site preparation activities during or after adverse weather conditions results in further degradation of the soils surrounding approved septic system areas with compaction and smearing.

Excavation Activities.

- Excavation and trenching activities during or after adverse weather conditions cause severe reduction in soil porosity and permeability. Compaction and smearing of the infiltrative surface occur from equipment traffic and vibration, scraping actions of the equipment. Compaction and smearing of the infiltrative surface seriously reduces the effectiveness of the installed septic system thus resulting in failed inspections and requiring new septic system designs and installations.
- Cover material for open trenches, septic systems are not adequately protected during or after adverse weather conditions. Cover material shall be loose, dry soils. Heavily saturated cover soils diminish the effectiveness of the installed drainfield.

Over the last year our issued septic permits and approved designs indicate the Soil Type and specify if the system may be installed in wet soils. These system installs are limited to sandy, gravelly soils (Soil Types 1, 2, and 3).

Soil Types designated as silt loams, sandy loams, or clay loams are not permitted to be installed in wet soils for reasons listed above. These soil types are designated as 4, 5, and 6 and should be indicated on your permit and approved design.

WINTER INSPECTION ALTERNATIVES

If CDHD can't conduct a final septic inspection prior to cover:

1. Take photos of septic tank inlet and outlet, dose tank inlet and outlet (if applicable) and drainfield (trenches, bed, & drip system). Notify health district prior to cover and provide the photos via email to Onsite staff. If pressurized system, we can arrange on a later date to complete the pressure test.

2. Contact Licensed Designer for final inspection – Licensed Designers are approved to conduct final inspections.

Please submit all inspection requests to our dedicated email listed below. This ensures your inspection request has been received. This email is checked often on a daily basis. Requests should be 48 hours in advance to provide inspectors time for scheduling.

inspections@cdhd.wa.gov

Please feel free to upload a completed As-built Form & Drawing with the inspection request. I have asked our inspectors to request the As-built Form & Drawing prior to conducting our final inspection.



ONSITE INSPECTOR - INSPECTION & REVIEW AREAS



RICHMOND PETTY, REHS (ONSITE PROGRAM SUPERVISOR) – LEAVENWORTH AREA

EMAIL: RICHMOND.PETTY@CDHD.WA.GOV

OFFICE: 509-886-6432 **WORK CELL:** 509-881-7804

1. Plain
2. Leavenworth
3. Lake Wenatchee
4. Chumstick Area
5. Peshastin
6. Dryden



BRIAN DICKEY, REHS – NO. CHELAN CO. & NO. DOUGLAS CO.

EMAIL: BRIAN.DICKEY@CDHD.WA.GOV

OFFICE: 509-886-6418 **WORK CELL:** 509-433-5420

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Chelan | 6. Chelan Falls |
| 2. Chelan – Lakeshore Rd area | 7. Manson |
| 3. Chelan – Navarre Coulee area | 8. Orondo – Douglas Co. |
| 4. Entiat | 9. Beebe Bridge Area – Douglas Co. |
| 5. Ardenvoir | 10. Brewster – Douglas Co. |
| | 11. Bridgeport – Douglas Co |



JUANITA GARIBAY, EHS I – SO. CHELAN CO. & SOUTH/EAST DOUGLAS CO.

EMAIL: JUANITA.GARIBAYORTIZ@CDHD.WA.GOV

OFFICE: 509-886-6467 **WORK CELL:** 509-433-5398

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Sunnyslope area | 6. Cashmere |
| 2. Squilchuck area | 7. East Wenatchee – Douglas Co. |
| 3. Wenatchee | 8. Rock Island – Douglas Co |
| 4. Malaga | 9. Palisades – Douglas Co. |
| 5. Monitor | 10. Waterville – Douglas Co. |
| | 11. Remote Douglas Co. (Withrow, Mansfield, Grand Coulee, Rimrock Meadows, Banks Lake) |



DOMINICK CIMMIYOTTI - EHS I

ONSITE OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF – EMAIL: EHSUPPORT@CDHD.WA.GOV 509-886-6400
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Fall 2024

Key Draft Rule Changes

February 2024

On-site Sewage Systems (OSS) Chapter 246-272A WAC

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.

This document lists the key changes to the rule.



Property Transfer Inspections

Beginning in 2027, all on-site sewage systems (OSS) must be inspected when the property is sold or the deed is transferred. The Local Health Officer (LHO) may remove this requirement if the OSS has had a recent routine inspection. The LHO may verify the results of the inspection, require additional inspections, and require that failed OSS discovered during the property transfer inspection are repaired on a set timeline.



Minor Repairs

There is a new definition for “Minor Repair” to clarify that permits are not needed for some repairs.



Repairs

The LHO must:

- Allow the least expensive repair or replacement of an OSS that meets the rule’s requirements.
- Evaluate all unpermitted sewage discharges and require any that pose a public health threat to be brought into compliance with the rule within a set timeframe.
- Report OSS failures to the Washington Department of Health if they are within 200 feet of shellfish growing areas.

LHOs may not impose more stringent repair requirements on private entities than public entities.



Remediation

LHOs may develop a policy allowing OSS remediation practices to correct certain problems and failures. Remediation practices that damage the OSS or result in insufficient soil treatment are not allowed.



Minimum Lot Sizes

Minimum lot sizes have been increased by 500 – 1000 sq ft, depending on soil type.



Minimum Usable Land Area

New lots being served by OSS must have a certain land area that is usable for septic system installation and repairs. This land cannot be under water, paved, impacted by an easement, or otherwise unusable for the OSS.



Field Verification of Proprietary Treatment Products

Manufacturers of OSS using disinfecting and nitrogen-treating proprietary treatment components must verify the efficacy of their products in the field. This will entail collecting samples from 25 installations in Washington State to evaluate their performance under field conditions.



Product Supply Chain

Proprietary products may be retrofitted with components they were not tested with if there is a supply chain or other manufacturing disruption. The manufacturer must provide a statement from an engineer that the retrofit will not impact OSS performance or maintenance.



Resilience

Sea Level Rise – LHOs in Puget Sound counties are required to identify areas where sea level rise may impact horizontal setbacks to OSS resulting in an increased risk to public health.

Phosphorus – LHOs in Puget Sound counties are required to identify areas where phosphorus has been found to be a contaminant of concern. They must identify measures to protect public health and water quality from phosphorus from new and repaired OSS in these areas. This is already an established requirement for areas where nitrogen is a contaminant of concern.

Nitrogen-based minimum lot size for small lots – Lots may be allowed to be made smaller than the minimums if certain safety measures are met and nitrogen treatment is installed on the OSS.

WAC 246-272A REVISION IS SET TO IMPLEMENTED ON APRIL 1 OF 2025

Key rule changes are attached. Please reference the state site for more information On-site Sewage System Rule Revision | Washington State Department of Health

A Technical Advisory Group was formed to review the new requirements. Monthly meetings have been conducted with biggest concerns with land development changes and new nitrogen loading calculation for homes at 4 bedrooms or larger, which may result in an increase in nitrogen-reducing systems.

Local CDHD Code Revision



The health district is in the review stage of updating our local code – Ch. 4.20 Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems. We have proposed a number of changes to strengthen and clarify guidelines, and also integrate some of Chelan & Douglas County codes that impact septic system treatment and placement. The CDHD Board of Health (BOH) will need to review and approve any changes to the local code. A complete summary of changes will be provided once this has been proposed and approved.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

We have scheduled with WOSSA – Basics of Installation Course and Test for October 29th & 30th. The course and test through WOSSA are required to become licensed as an Installer for Chelan & Douglas Counties.

Please reference the WOSSA site for additional courses. In-Person Training - Washington On-Site Sewage Association (wossa.org)

If there is large interest in a certain topic or training please let us know and we can work with WOSSA to arrange a class locally in our counties.

SEPTIC-CON

Date: January 24 & 25, 2025

Time: 8:00am - 4:50pm (5-8pm Reception & WOSSA Scholarship Dinner)

Location: Greater Tacoma Convention Center

CEUs: 8 Credit Hours

For more information please visit the website SEPTIC-CON - Washington On-Site Sewage Association (wossa.org)