

Name of Practice: CONVENTIONAL ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEM
INSTALLATION/REPLACEMENT
DEQ Specifications for No. RB-4

A. Description

Installation of a conventional onsite sewage system to replace an identified straight pipe which delivers sewage directly to a stream, pond, lake, or river; or an installation to correct a malfunctioning conventional sewage system, or replace a system not VDH-approved that can potentially impact water quality. A malfunctioning system could be contributing raw or partially treated sewage on the ground's surface, or resulting in a direct source of sewage to adjacent ditches or waterways, or potentially impacting ground water. A conventional onsite sewage system refers to a treatment works consisting of one or more septic tanks with gravity, pumped, or siphoned conveyance to a gravity subsurface drainfield.

B. Purpose

To improve water quality by removing raw or partially treated sewage on the land surface that can enter surface water or ground water during storm events, or sewage that is direct source of contamination to surface water or ground water. Sewage means water-carried and non-water-carried human excrement; kitchen, laundry, shower, bath, or lavatory wastes separately, or together.

C. Policies

1. Cost-share is authorized:
 - a. For the pumpout and removal of solids from the septic tank.
 - b. For the installation of a septic tank(s), installation of subsurface drainfield, and components needed to install or replace a conventional onsite sewage system.
 - c. For connecting a gray water discharge from a dwelling that is discharging on the ground or in a wet/dry ditch to the newly constructed onsite sewage system. Any plumbing that is necessary inside the dwelling to make the gray water connection to the system is not eligible for cost-share.
 - d. To provide adequate access to the septic tank(s) for inspection and sludge removal by installing risers extending to the finished ground surface or above. Risers may be provided at both inlet and outlet ends (if only one is installed the preference would be the outlet) of the septic tank and at a minimum shall be 18 inches in diameter. VDH requires

an access manhole within 18 inches of the ground surface when the tank is in excess of 30 inches deep.

- e. To re-stabilize and establish vegetative cover on disturbed areas by planting seed.
 - f. For permit fees associated with construction of conventional onsite sewage system (reimbursable upon installation and final approval of system by the Virginia Department of Health).
2. The owner or agent shall obtain a written construction permit from the local Health Department.
 3. The owner or agent shall obtain any other permit(s) as required for the installation/replacement of the conventional sewage system.
 4. The owner or agent shall obtain and comply with any engineering designs as required in the Health Department permit.
 5. All construction in accordance with the VDH issued permit must be inspected by the local Health Department, an Onsite Soil Evaluator, or Professional Engineer who designed the system.
 6. Disturbed areas need to be stabilized in accordance with the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Standard and Specifications 3.31 (Permanent Seeding) and Specification 3.35 (Mulching). For slopes of 3:1 or greater use 3.36 (Blankets and Matting).
 7. If the old septic tank is not useable an abandonment should be performed by a septic tank contractor or plumber. The septic tank is pumped out, tank lids are crushed and dumped in tank, and the tank is filled with sand or other suitable material.
 8. By accepting payment for this practice, the recipient agrees to maintain the system for a minimum of 10 years unless the system is eliminated by connection to public sewer. This practice will be subject to spot checks for up to 10 years.

D. Rate

The cost-share amount will not exceed 50% to 75% of the total eligible cost based on income levels in accordance with *Program Design and Guidelines, TMDL – Cost-Share Assistance Program for On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems*. The cost-share payment for installation costs at 50% cost-share shall not exceed \$4,000, \$4,800 at 60% cost-share, \$5,600 at 70%, and shall not exceed \$6,000 for recipients eligible for 75% cost-share.

Revised June 2015