

Name of Practice: ALTERNATIVE ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEM INSTALLATION  
DCR Specifications for No. RB-5

A. Description

Installation of an alternative onsite sewage system to correct a malfunctioning conventional onsite sewage system or to replace an identified straight pipe in situations where the installation/replacement of a conventional onsite sewage system cannot be permitted. An alternative onsite sewage system means a treatment works that is not a conventional onsite sewage system and does not result in a permitted discharge.

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 an alternative onsite sewage system that includes the following: aerobic treatment units, low pressure distribution systems, drip distribution systems, sand filters, elevated sand mounds, constructed wetlands, peat filters, vault privies, incinerator toilets, and composting toilets.
  - c. To cover expenses for up to two years for a sampling, operation, and maintenance contract required to be performed by a licensed alternative operator and reported to VDH. Only recipients of 75% cost-share are eligible. An executed contract must be in place before cost-share is provided. The Virginia Administrative Code 12VAC5-613 requires the owner to have a licensed onsite system operator under contract or directly employed. Also, one routine inspection is required every 12 months.
  - d. To re-stabilize and establish vegetative cover on disturbed areas by planting seed.

- e. For the cost associated with design of the system using a Private Onsite Soil Evaluator or Professional Engineer.
  - f. For permit fees associated with installation of alternative onsite sewage system (reimbursable upon installation and final approval of system by Virginia Department of Health).
2. The owner or agent shall obtain a written construction permit as required by the Virginia Department of Health.
  3. The owner or agent shall obtain any other permit(s) as required for installation of an alternative onsite sewage system and comply with local building codes.
  4. The owner or agent shall obtain and comply with any engineering designs as required in the Health Department permit.
  5. The installation of the alternative onsite sewage system must be inspected by the Private Onsite Soil Evaluator or Professional Engineer that certified the design and all completion documentation must be provided to the local Health Department and an operation permit issued.
  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 it should be properly abandoned 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 fill material.
  8. By accepting payment for this practice, the recipient agrees to maintain the onsite sewage system. 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 at 50% shall not exceed \$10,000, \$12,000 at 60% cost-share, \$14,000 at 70%, and shall not exceed \$15,000 at 75%.

Revised June 2016