



SEWAGE HOLDING TANK STANDARDS

Health and Social Services

Environmental Health Services promotes the safe treatment and disposal of sewage. For domestic situations involving a piped water supply the preferred method of individual treatment is by septic tank and in-ground soil absorption field. However, where ground conditions are deemed unsuitable for septic tank effluent disposal, holding tanks may, under certain limited circumstance, be permitted. Decision on the granting of permits for sewage holding tanks are made on the basis of public health requirements and are subject to compliance with federal, territorial and municipal law. All proposals are evaluated on an individual basis. Any variations from these standards must receive prior approval from a Health Officer.

1. Sewage holding tanks shall meet construction and installation standards as per CAN/CSA-B66-M90.
2. The tank shall receive all discharges from toilets, and the waste from baths, wash basins, showers, sinks and washing machines. Surface water from roofs, yards and foundation drainage, together with spring run-off, are to be excluded from the sewage holding tank.
3. Where tanks are buried in the ground, a flexible coupling should be installed near the entrance to the tank and at the point at which the pipe to the tank exits from the building.
4. Tanks with less than 1.2 m (4 ft.) of soil cover shall be insulated with a minimum of 50 mm (2 in.) of sprayed on polyurethane insulation.
5. Tanks shall have a functional audible or visual alarm that warns when the tank should be emptied, and shall be connected to the water supply pump switch so as to automatically shut off the pump at a level not exceeding 90% of its capacity.
6. The minimum tank capacity for a single-family residence is 4500 litres (1000 Imperial gallons).
7. Applicants must demonstrate an approved means of final disposal. Normally, this would mean that the applicant has access to a sewage education (pump-out) service.
8. The tank shall be located both vertically and laterally, so as to be accessible for education.
9. Where a residence is serviced by water delivery, the sewage connector for pump-out should be on a different wall face of the building than the water connector. Where they are on the same wall face, there shall be a separation distance between the two connectors of at least 3 m (10 ft.), with the sewage connector being located at least 300 mm (1 ft.) lower in elevation than the water connector.
10. Sewage holding tanks must be a minimum of 9 m (30 ft.) from a buried water storage tank; 1.5m (5 ft.) from a parcel boundary or from any building; 15m (50 ft.) from any source of potable water, or natural boundary or high water level of any water body; and 60 m (200 ft.) from any community well.
11. Sewage holding tanks shall be outside the building and strategically located so as to minimize heat loss, prevent structural damage and protect the building from contamination.

Notification of intention to backfill is to be given to a Health Officer at least 72 hours in advance.

Owner(s) must submit photographs depicting the installation, along with the *Notification of Installation and Undertaking to Maintain a Sewage Holding Tank* within 30 days of completion.

For further information contact Environmental Health Services at (867) 667-8391 or toll free 1-800-661-0408, ext. 8391.