

The following rules will become effective **July 1, 2025**. This list does not include every change made to IDAPA 58.01.03. For the entire IDAPA 58.01.03 document, visit phd5.idaho.gov or contact (208)737-5921.

003. DEFINITIONS.

Absorption Bed. A drainfield excavation exceeding six (6) feet in width.

Bedroom. A habitable room within a dwelling that meets state or local building code requirements applicable to bedrooms and includes methods of ingress and egress. The local building authority may designate any additional room as a bedroom.

Drainfield. A system of aggregate-filled trenches, gravelless chamber systems, drip systems, absorption beds, or other approved subsurface dispersal methods that distribute wastewater effluent into the soil. Also known as a “leachfield” or “soil absorption system.”

Dwelling Unit. A single unit with complete independent living facilities for one (1) or more persons, including permanent improvements for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

Gray Water. As defined in IDAPA 58.01.16, Wastewater Rules.

Septic Tank. A watertight, covered receptacle designed and constructed to receive wastewater discharge, separate solids from liquid, digest organic matter, store digested solids through a period of detention, and allow clarified liquids to discharge for final disposal.

Septic Tank Facility. A septic tank or series of septic tanks preceding a subsurface disposal system. Tanks or compartments used for housing pretreatment products or used as dosing chambers are not considered part of the septic tank facility.

Septage. As defined in IDAPA 58.01.16, Wastewater Rules.

Trench. A drainfield excavation six (6) feet or less in width.

005. PERMIT AND PERMIT APPLICATION.

Valid Application and Permit. Unless otherwise stated on the application or permit, it will become invalid if the authorized construction or activity is not completed and approved within two (2) years of the date of issuance.

Permit Effect. A valid permit authorizes the construction of an individual or subsurface disposal system and requires the construction be conducted in compliance with plans, specifications, and conditions contained in the approved permit application. Any deviation from the plans, specifications, or conditions is prohibited unless it is approved in advance by the Director.

006. REGISTRATION PERMITS FOR INSTALLERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS.

02. Examination. The initial issuance of the installer's or service provider's permit will be based on completing an examination, with a passing score of seventy percent (70%) or more. The installer and service provider examinations are separate.

03. Permits Required Annually. Installer and service provider permits expire annually on the first (1st) day of January, and all permits issued thereafter will be for the balance of the calendar year.

Additionally, installers will attend at least one (1) refresher course approved by the Department every three (3) years.

05. Bond Required. At the time of application, all applicants seeking a basic or complex installer's permit, or a service provider permit must deliver to the Director a bond. The bond must:

- a. Be in a form approved by the Director;
- b. Be in the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for a basic installer's or service provider's permit, or thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for a complex installer's permit;
- c. Be executed by a surety company duly authorized to do business in the state of Idaho and run concurrent with the permit.; and
- d. Guarantee the installer or service provider's faithful performance of all work undertaken under the provisions of the installer's or service provider's permit, or both.

06. Damages. Any person who suffers damage from negligent or wrongful acts of the installer or service provider or by the installer's or service provider's failure to competently perform any of the work agreed to be done under the terms of the registration permit will, in addition to other legal remedies, have a right of action on the bond for all damages not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for standard and basic alternative systems or operation, maintenance, and monitoring by certified service providers or thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for complex alternative systems. The maximum liability of the sureties on the bond, regardless of the number of claims filed against the bond, must not exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for standard and basic alternative systems or operations, maintenance, and monitoring by certified service providers or thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for complex alternative systems.

007. SEPTIC TANKS DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.

02. Design. A professional engineer licensed by the state of Idaho must submit all septic tank designs to the Department for approval. If any design submitted for approval does not meet all requirements in Section 007, the engineer must demonstrate that any deviation is determined by sound engineering practice and meets the intent of the rules.

08. Minimum Tank Capacities.

- a. Tanks serving single dwelling units. The minimum tank capacity is one thousand (1,000) gallons. For each bedroom over four (4) in a dwelling unit, add *two hundred fifty* (250) gallons.
- b. Tanks serving all other flows. The minimum tank capacity per structure is one thousand (1,000) gallons or a volume equal to at least two (2) times the maximum daily flow, whichever is greater.

09. Wastewater Flows from Various Establishments in Gallons per Day.

Overnight Accommodation:

Central Toilet - 25/Person

Central Toilet & Shower - 35/Person

14. Manholes. Manholes must extend to the finished grade. Access to each septic tank or compartment must be provided by a manhole twenty (20) inches in minimum dimension or a removable cover of equivalent size. Each manhole cover must be provided with a corrosion resistant strap or handle to facilitate removal.

21. Effluent Pipe Separation Distances. Effluent pipes have the same separation distance requirements as septic tanks unless otherwise approved by the Director.

Drainfield Separation Distances:

Water Distribution Lines:

(not double-encased) – 25'

(double-encased) – 10'

Permanent or Intermittent Surface Water other than Irrigation Canals & Ditches:

A Soils – 200'

B Soils – 125'

C Soils – 100'

08. Impermeable Surface Barrier. A treatment area trench or replacement area may not be:

- a. Compacted.

10. Vehicle and Machinery Traffic. Rubber-tired vehicles and machinery may not be driven on the bottom surface of any excavation or on the top of any drainfield.

011. INSPECTIONS.

01. One or More Inspections. The Director will require inspections necessary to determine compliance with any provision of these rules.

02. Duty to Uncover. The permittee must, at the request of the Director, uncover or make available for inspection any portion or component of a system under construction or covered or concealed in violation of these rules.

03. Advance Notice by Permittee. If an inspection requires preparation, such as test hole excavation or partial construction of the system, the applicant or permittee must notify the Director at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance, excluding weekends and holidays.

04. Substantiating Receipts and Delivery Slips. Upon the Director's request, the permittee must provide copies of receipts, delivery slips, or other similar documents to substantiate the origin, quality, or quantity of materials used in constructing any system.

05. Finalizing a Permit. No system may receive wastewater until the Director conducts a final installation inspection and completes as-built drawings and specifications depicting the actual installation. The Director will provide a copy of the final as-built drawing to the owner within thirty (30) days after completing the final inspection.

012. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

03. Amendments or Revocations. At any time, the Director may amend or revoke any installation or registration permit or the approval of any system component approved by the Department if:

- a. Approval was based on false or misleading information;
- b. The material, technology, or system no longer achieves performance standards for which it was approved, does not meet the conditions of approval, or does not meet the intent of the rules; or
- c. The permitted installer, service provider, or pumper is not in compliance with or has violated the provisions of these rules.

04. Notice. Except in emergencies, the Department will issue a written notice of intent to revoke to the permittee before final revocation. Revocation becomes final within thirty-five (35) days of the permittee receiving notice unless, within that time, the permittee requests an administrative hearing in writing. The hearing is conducted according to IDAPA 58.01.23, Contested Case Rules and Rules for Protection and Disclosure of Records.

For any questions regarding the updates/changes to the septic rules, please contact John Wingrove at 208-737-5987.

