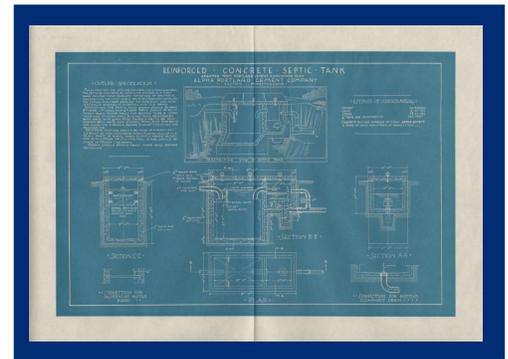


SEWAGE HOLDING TANK AND DESIGNATED MAINTENANCE AREA FACTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Designated Maintenance Areas (DMA) are defined as areas that do not have a public sewer system and have been determined by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board to be sensitive to septic system waste contamination.



Residents in DMAs typically utilize Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), also known as septic systems. Properties that are unsuitable for conventional sewage disposal systems may be permitted to have a sewage holding tank. Unlike an OWTS, a sewage holding tank is only designed to temporarily store sewage prior to regular removal to an approved permanent disposal site.

REQUIRED PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

Construction of a new OWTS or sewage holding tank requires a construction permit from San Bernardino County Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS). A construction permit is issued for the purpose of obtaining a building permit from Building and Safety for a sewage holding tank as the proposed means of sewage disposal. This permit is valid for the period of the construction only and no renewal of this permit is required.



In addition to initial construction permits, both OWTS and sewage holding tanks require operating permits. DEHS inspections correlate with the renewal of permits. Refer to the table below to

Sewage Disposal System	Permit Required	Renewal and Inspection Frequency
OWTS (septic system)	DMA permit	Biennial (every two years)
Sewage Holding Tanks	Sewage Holding Tank Operating Permit	Annual (once per year)

INSPECTIONS

The inspection fees paid by property owners fund the inspection program which allows residents to remain on private OWTS and/or utilize sewage holding tanks when public sewer systems are not available.

For OWTS an inspection will be conducted every two years. The inspector must have safe access to perform an inspection, which consists of looking for signs of obvious system failure such as exposed sewage on the surface of the ground above the absorption field and/or detectable odors.

Annual inspections of sewage holding tanks will also look for signs of exposed sewage on the property, as well as ensuring that tanks are operating as designed and approved, including locked access portals and working, accessible electric alarm systems.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, current fee schedule and resources on this topic, contact DEHS at (800) 442-2283 or visit the website at www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs.



SEWAGE HOLDING TANK SELF INSPECTION CHECKLIST

No exposed sewage on the property

- Exposed sewage from improperly maintained or non functional sewers, septic tanks, leach lines or any other means of liquid waste disposal is considered a public nuisance/ substandard and is required to be corrected. (*County Code 33.0304, 33.0302(5)*).
- Property owners must not allow a public nuisance and have a duty to remove, abate and prevent the recurrence of a public nuisance. (*County Code 33.0304*)

NOTE: Applies to both OWTS and sewage holding tanks.

Above ground access to the tank is locked

- Tank shall be equipped with at least one water and gas tight access extended to or above finish grade.
- Access shall be at least 20" in diameter and be lockable when closed and located in the inlet of the tank. (*County Code 33.0877*)

The electric alarm system is accessible and operating properly

- An electric alarm system shall be installed in each tank and indicate when the tank is approximately 75% filled.
- All equipment shall be accessible for repairs and adjustments. (*County Code 33.0877*)