

Leaching Chamber OSSF Inspection General Guidelines

Once the Authorization to Construct (ATC) has been issued by our office, you may begin construction of the On-site sewage facility (OSSF). The OSSF shall meet minimum requirements as mentioned in On-Site Sewage Facilities, Title 30, Texas Administrative Code Chapter 285. It is the responsibility of the installer, homeowner and OSSF operator to be familiar with the OSSF regulations and permit requirements. The OSSF shall meet these requirements during installation, inspection, and operation.

The entire system shall be uncovered to ensure to verify the minimum requirements have been met

Sewer pipe throughout the OSSF

Pipe from building to treatment system-

- Shall be a minimum of three inches in diameter and constructed of cast iron, ductile iron, PVC Schedule 40 or 80, or SDR 26 PVC
- The slope of pipe shall be no less than 1/8-inch fall per foot of pipe (1-inch of fall per every 8-feet of pipe)
- A two-way cleanout must be provided between the sewer stub out and the treatment tank. An additional cleanout shall be provided every 100 feet on long runs of pipe and within five feet of any 90-degree bends.

Pipe after the treatment system to disposal-

- Shall be a minimum of three inches in diameter, a minimum of five feet in length and constructed of ASTM 3034, SDR 35 PVC, PVC Schedule 40 or 80
- Shall maintain a continuous fall to the disposal system.
- There shall be at least one foot of fall from the bottom of the outlet device to the bottom of the trench.

Treatment Tank- All treatment tank(s) shall be installed per manufacturer instructions and shall be level.

Inlet & Outlet devices

- The flowline of the tank's inlet device in the first compartment of a two-compartment tank shall be at least three inches higher than the flowline of the outlet device.
- Inlet & outlet device shall use a "T" branch fitting and have a minimum diameter of 3 inches.
- A laser level will be used to ensure the proper slope has been maintained from the cleanout to the inlet of the treatment tank. The laser will also be used to determine if the required 3-inch difference from the inlet and outlet devices has been obtained.

Maintenance ports/Treatment tank access

- Risers shall be installed on each tank within the treatment train and extend at least 2 inches above grade, have an inside diameter which are equal to or larger than the inspection or cleanout ports which shall be at least 12 inches in diameter, shall be permanently fastened to the tank lid and shall be watertight and shall be fitted with removable watertight caps and protected against unauthorized intrusions.
- A secondary plug, cap, or other suitable restraint system shall be installed below the riser cap to prevent tank entry if the cap is unknowingly damaged or removed. This is often referred to as secondary containment.

Disposal Drainfield

- **Required amount of drainfield installed.** This is based on the total Gallons Per Day (GPD) and this is normally determined by square footage of living area and/or number of bedrooms in a single-family residence. Sizing can vary depending on the type of dwelling(s) being served.
- Depending on the type of leaching chamber being used, each excavation shall be a minimum of 18 inches wide and shall not exceed 150 feet in length. Most leaching chambers are two-three foot wide.
- Drainfield shall be installed with a minimum of twelve inches of cover on the leaching chamber, and a maximum depth of five feet.
- Multiple excavations must be separated horizontally by at least three feet of undisturbed soil.
- The bottom of the excavation shall be level to within one inch over each 25 feet of excavation or within three inches over the entire excavation, whichever is less. This will be verified using the laser level.

Setback Distances- Entire setback distance requirements, Table X can be found in TAC 285

Private Water Well

- 50-foot radius to treatment tanks and 100-foot radius to disposal field. Radius to disposal field can be reduced to 50-foot if the water well is properly pressure cemented.
- 20 feet to sewer line

Public Water Well

- 50-foot radius to treatment tanks and 150-foot radius to disposal field
- 20 feet to sewer line

Water line- 10-foot radius to treatment tank, sewer line and disposal field

Foundations, buildings, surface improvements, property lines, swimming pools and other structures

- 5 feet for tanks and disposal field

Easements- 1 foot for tanks and disposal field