



# HARRISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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[WWW.HARRISONCOUNTYHEALTH.COM](http://WWW.HARRISONCOUNTYHEALTH.COM)

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To: Septic Installers  
From: Harrison County Health Department  
Re: Septic Installer Certification

Septic system installers must demonstrate competency in knowledge of county and state codes before installing septic systems. General knowledge of septic system installation will be tested through an exam developed and administered by the health department.

The exam is enclosed with this correspondence. This test emphasizes standard requirements for installing gravity-fed septic systems.

The most recent code revision took place in May, 2014. Please complete the exam by using State Rule **410 IAC 6-8.3** as an information source. The answers will be found in that publication. It is available as a PDF online at [www.in.gov/isdh/files/410\\_IAC\\_6-8\\_3.pdf](http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/410_IAC_6-8_3.pdf). To obtain certification, you must achieve a score of at least 80% correct. If you are unable to complete this requirement, you/your company must set up an appointment with one of the staff members and review the test. Once you have completed the review to the satisfaction of the health department, we will process your application and issue your certification.

In order to obtain certification and install septic systems in Harrison County, our office must receive:

- 1) A completed application (attached),
- 2) Either:
  - A Harrison County Health Department septic installer's test score of no less than 80%, **or** proper review of the test questions at this department, **OR**
  - A copy of your IOWPA certification

The Health Department makes a list of Harrison County approved septic system installers available to the public. If you wish to appear on that list, you must:

- 1) Have scored satisfactorily on the Harrison County Health Department installers exam **OR** be IOWPA certified, and
- 2) Have installed at least three (3) septic systems correctly to state and county codes.

If you have any questions on this matter, please call our office. Good luck!

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### Application for Septic System Installer Certification

If requested, the information you provide on this application will be made available to the public. The Health Department may furnish, to the public, a list of Harrison County Health Department approved septic system installers, their name or company name, address, and phone number.

To be permitted to install septic systems within Harrison County, please complete this application and return it to the Health Department.

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to appear on the Installer's List?  Yes  No (You must first pass a Harrison County Health Department or IOWPA septic installer's exam AND properly install at least 3 septic systems in Harrison County to State and County codes)

It is encouraged that all septic installers, helpers, etc. on a job site be certified, but a minimum of one certified person is required to be available at all times during septic system installation.

If there are significant changes in the State septic system codes, re-examination may be necessary.

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*For Health Department use only*

*Date issued* \_\_\_\_\_ *Permit #* \_\_\_\_\_ *Score* \_\_\_\_\_ %

## **Septic Installer's Exam**

**Choose the best answer.**

1. While it may improve the operation of a marginal on-site sewage system to divert water from water softeners and laundry to the nearest ditch, it is not permitted in Indiana.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  
2. Why should the tank be cleaned when installing a replacement system?
  - a) For health reasons
  - b) It should not be pumped
  - c) To check the baffles, remove solids, and to confirm the tank is water tight
  - d) So the new system starts fresh
  
3. What paperwork should be on site during the installation of a septic system?
  - a) Installers license, permit, requirement guidelines
  - b) Permit, drawing, and state requirement guidelines
  - c) Installers license, permit, drawing and copy of state onsite rule
  - d) Whatever the local county health department requires
  
4. To be considered a bedroom, a room must have at least one operable window or exterior door for emergency egress or rescue, and, for new construction, a closet.
  - a) True
  - b) False
  
5. A declaration by the owner and recorded by affidavit can define the number of bedrooms within the house.
  - a) True
  - b) False

6. Which one of the following is not required on a site drawing?
- a) The location of all soil borings
  - b) Nearest public building
  - c) A pool
  - d) Floodplain elevations, if located near a river or creek
  - e) Any drainage or utility easements
  - f) A barn
  - g) All of these items must be included on drawing
7. What is the definition of residential on-site sewage system failure?
- a) The soil surface has ponding of effluent
  - b) The system will not accept sewage at the designed rate
  - c) There is effluent contamination of potable water supply, ground water, or surface water.
  - d) All of the above
8. A jetted bathtub is treated as a bedroom equivalent for system sizing requirement if its capacity is greater than:
- a) 75 gallons
  - b) 100 gallons
  - c) 110 gallons
  - d) 125 gallons
9. A sidewalk can be located within ten feet of the septic tank as long as it does not block the access points.
- a) True
  - b) False
10. The septic tanks and the soil absorption field of the residential on-site sewage system shall be located at least 50 feet away from any private pond.
- a) True
  - b) False

11. Water lines can cross sewer lines if eighteen (18) inches of vertical clearance separation is maintained.

- a) True
- b) False

12. Patios without footers cannot be any closer than 10 feet to the septic tank.

- a) True
- b) False

13. How close can a septic tank or soil absorption field of a residential on-site sewage system be to a lake, reservoir, or pond which is not used as a water supply?

- a) 50 feet
- b) 100 feet
- c) 200 feet
- d) 25 feet

14. Dispersal areas are required on all sites.

- a) True
- b) False

15. Dispersal area widths for absorption fields that require a perimeter drain is always ten (10) feet.

- a) True
- b) False

16. On a site with greater than ½ (one-half) percent slope, the dispersal area is located on the down slope side of the soil absorption field.

- a) True
- b) False

17. The minimum and maximum dispersal area widths are from ten to twenty-five feet.

- a) True
- b) False

18. With slopes of greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$  (one-half) percent, no part of the dispersal area may slope towards the soil absorption field.

- a) True
- b) False

19. Vegetation in the soil absorption field site that would interfere with the soils evaluation, system layout or system construction, shall be cut and removed prior to installation without causing compacted soil material.

- a) True
- b) False

20. The bottom of soil absorption trenches shall not be installed below the regulatory flood elevation.

- a) True
- b) False

21. The 50 foot separation distance between a well and a residential on-site sewage system is not required for a well that is used for agricultural purposes only.

- a) True
- b) False

22. A septic tank cannot be installed in an area where the slope is greater than:

- a) 6 percent
- b) 10 percent
- c) 25 percent
- d) Not specified in rule

23. A residential on-site sewage system and its associated drainage area cannot be constructed on adjoining property unless easements which grant permission for construction and access for maintenance have been obtained from the adjoining owner and legally approved and recorded.

- a) True
- b) False

24. The maximum site slope permitted for construction of a subsurface soil absorption system is:

- a) 10 percent
- b) 12 percent
- c) 15 percent
- d) 20 percent

25. How close can an absorption field be to a stream, a ditch, or drainage tile?

- a) 10 feet
- b) 25 feet
- c) 50 feet
- d) 100 feet

26. Excessive smearing of the bottom and side walls of the absorption trenches is ground for rejection of the system and/or site.

- a) True
- b) False

27. If a soil horizon with a soil loading rate of  $< 0.25$  gpd/ft<sup>2</sup> is located 51 inches below the ground surface, for new construction, what is the maximum depth to the bottom of the trench allowed for a 3-bedroom gravity system (not a flood dose system with a pump)

- a) 51 inches
- b) 21 inches
- c) 27 inches
- d) 18 inches

28. The soil scientist has stated there is a seasonal water table located at 30 inches. You are going to place the trenches at a maximum depth of 15 inches. Which of the following is true?

- a) The water table is not important in this case.
- b) The water table is below the trenches so no drain is required.
- c) Not possible to install a septic system at this site.
- d) Subsurface drainage is required.

29. A property owner (or his/her agent) who wishes to construct a new residential on-site sewage system must obtain a written permit signed by the local county health department prior to:

- a) Construction of a new home or placement of a mobile home
- b) Replacement of an existing residential on-site sewage system
- c) Repair or expansion of an existing residential on-site sewage system.
- d) Replacement or reconstruction of a home or residential out building that needs plumbing.
- e) All of the above

30. A written septic permit from the health department is required when replacing an existing residential on-site sewage system.

- a) True
- b) False

31. What is the minimum distance that a septic tank must be from a below ground swimming pool?

- a) 5 feet
- b) 10 feet
- c) 25 feet
- d) 50 feet

32. What is the minimum separation distance required for a building located upslope (on a site with a slope greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$  percent) of an absorption system in a soil with a soil loading rate of 0.3 gpd/ft<sup>2</sup> ?

- a) 30 feet
- b) 50 feet
- c) 75 feet
- d) 100 feet
- e) 10 feet

33. Before any construction may begin on replacing a residential on-site sewage system, the following must be obtained.

- a) Soils profile
- b) Construction permit
- c) Any other information deemed necessary by the health department
- d) All of the above

34. If the ground surface falls 18" in 100 feet, the slope is 15 percent.



- a) True
- b) False

35. An on-site soil evaluation is required for:

- a) New construction of a soil absorption field
- b) Replacement or alteration of an existing soil absorption field
- c) Replacing a leaking septic tank
- d) A and B above
- e) All of the above

36. The on-site feasibility, location, selection, and design shall be based on the site evaluation and information obtained from the soil profile and the DDF (daily design flow).

- a) True
- b) False

37. When an on-site soil evaluation is conducted, the soil profile information is recorded to a depth of:

- A) Three (3) feet
- B) Five (5) feet
- C) Until a layer is encountered that cannot be readily penetrated
- D) Either B or C above

38. The soil report includes which of the following soil characteristics?

- a) Horizon depths
- b) Soil color, structure, and texture at each horizon
- c) Depth of the seasonal high ground water
- d) Depth to a limiting horizon (bedrock, soil with a soil loading rate less than 0.25 or greater than 0.75 gpd/ft<sup>2</sup>)
- e) All of the above

39. A soil absorption field may be constructed in an area that ponds if the ponding does not last more than three (3) days.

- a) True
- b) False

40. Trees located within the construction site for soil absorption trenches:

- a) Must be cut off at the ground level and the stumps are left in place
- b) Must be left standing
- c) Stumps and root balls may be removed provided the resulting excavation will not exceed the permit requirements for width or depth of the soil absorption trench

41. Per Indiana Code, soil absorption trenches are to be installed with a maximum slope of \_\_\_\_ from beginning to end.

- a) ½ percent
- b) 2 percent
- c) Some fall, but not too much
- d) They are to be installed level from end to end and side to side

42. Platy structure caused by mechanical compaction has a soil loading rate of 0.0 gpd/ft<sup>2</sup> unless broken up by approved methods.

- a) True
- b) False

43. Soils that have a silty clay texture and that are structureless, massive, and firm have a soil loading rate of twenty-five hundredths (0.25) gpd/ft<sup>2</sup>.

- a) True
- b) False

44. Soils that have a silty clay texture and that are structureless, massive, and friable have a soil loading rate of twenty-five hundredths (0.25) gpd/ft<sup>2</sup>.

- a) True
- b) False

45. The outlets of a subsurface drainage system (curtain drain) must be fitted with:

- a) Tight-fitting caps to prevent water escape
- b) Vents
- c) Cleanouts
- d) Rodent guards
- e) Mosquito larvacide

46. For a 3-bedroom flood-dosed septic system, what is the discharge rate in gallons per minute (gpm)?

- a) 10-12 gpm
- b) 20-25 gpm
- c) 30-45 gpm
- d) 50-60 gpm
- e) 60-75 gpm

47. From the distribution box to any chambered line, the minimum separation distance is:

- a) 2 feet
- b) 3 feet
- c) 5 feet
- d) 7.5 feet
- e) 10 feet

48. Which of these situations require that a residential sewage disposal system be pump assisted?

- a) The system is being installed in a flood plain
- b) The slope of the site is less 5 percent
- c) The total lineal footage of the absorption field exceeds 330 feet
- d) The total lineal footage of the absorption field exceeds 500 feet
- e)

49. Your local health department may NOT have more stringent local ordinances than the Indiana residential on-site sewage system code book.

- a) True
- b) False

50. For residential septic systems, what is the designed daily flow (DDF) per bedroom?

- a) 50 gallons
- b) 75 gallons
- c) 100 gallons
- d) 150 gallons
- e) 200 gallons