



HARRISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION
241 ATWOOD STREET, SUITE 200
CORYDON, INDIANA 47112
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WWW.HARRISONCOUNTYHEALTH.COM

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. 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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HARRISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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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.

For Health Department use only

Date issued _____ Permit # _____ Score _____ %

Harrison County Health Department

SEPTIC INSTALLER'S EXAM

General knowledge of subsurface gravity flow septic systems

MULTIPLE CHOICE. CHOOSE THE ONE BEST ANSWER.

1. When may you install a septic system before obtaining a septic permit from the health department?
 - a) When rain is imminent
 - b) When the owner insists
 - c) When you are pressed for time
 - d) When you hear thunder in the distance
 - e) Never

2. After obtaining a septic permit, circumstances change; i.e. the owner decides to move the house or now wants four bedrooms instead of three. What do you do?
 - a) Change your installation plans to accommodate the owner and go ahead
 - b) Contact the health department
 - c) Tell the owner there can be no changes
 - d) Tell the owner your fee has just increased
 - e) Sub-contract the job to another installer

3. What is the **minimum** distance a septic tank can be from a dwelling, an in-ground pool, or other structure?
 - a) 5 feet
 - b) 7.5 feet
 - c) 10 feet
 - d) 15 feet
 - e) 20 feet

4. What is the **minimum** distance any part of the septic system may be from the property line?
 - a) 3 feet
 - b) 5 feet
 - c) 7.5 feet
 - d) 10 feet
 - e) 20 feet

5. Which of the following 4" **solid pipe** is **accepted in Harrison County** for gravity septic systems?
 - a) ASTM D 3034
 - b) ASTM D 2729
 - c) ASTM F 810
 - d) ASTM C 4-62

6. In Harrison County, what is the percentage of reduction in sizing of the lateral field when using chambers as opposed to using pipe and gravel for the lateral lines?
 - a) 10%
 - b) 20%
 - c) 25%
 - d) 30%
 - e) 50%

5. What is the **minimum** allowable distance from the center of one absorption trench to the center of the adjacent absorption trench?
- 5 feet
 - 7.5 feet
 - 10 feet
 - 12.5 feet
 - 15 feet
7. What is the **maximum** allowable length of any one absorption trench?
- 100 feet
 - 120 feet
 - 125 feet
 - 150 feet
 - 200 feet
8. What is the **only** type of stone **approved in Harrison County** for use in the lateral lines?
- #9 (3/4" to 1") crushed limestone
 - #11 (1/2") crushed limestone
 - 5L (3/4" to 2-1/2") washed river gravel
 - pea (<1/2") river gravel
 - rip rap
9. What material(s) is/are approved as a covering for the aggregate in the absorption trenches?
- Tar paper
 - Straw
 - geotextile fabric
 - Recycled chopped tires
 - Hardwood mulch
10. According to Indiana Code, what is the **maximum** allowable drop from the beginning of the absorption trench to the end?
- 0"
 - 2"
 - 4"
 - 6"
 - 12"
11. A **minimum** of how many inches of gravel are required above and below the perforated pipe in the absorption trench?
- 3" below and 3" above
 - 4" below and 2" above
 - 4" below and 4" above
 - 6" below and 2" above
 - 6" below and 4" above
12. What is the **minimum** soil cover required over the gravel in the absorption trench?
- 6"
 - 9"
 - 10"
 - 12"
 - 18"

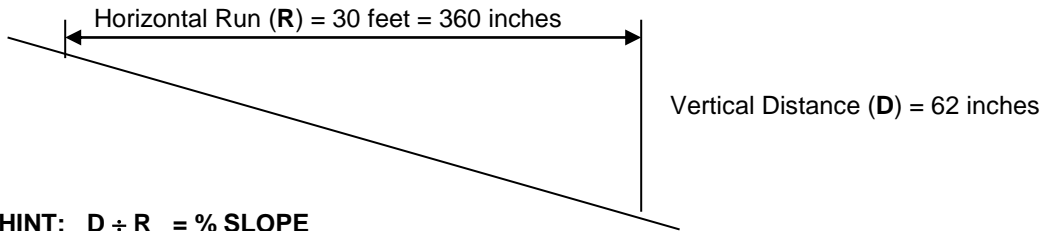
13. On new construction what are the **minimum** and **maximum** allowable depths for a gravity absorption trench?
- a) Minimum 6", maximum 18"
 - b) Minimum 8", maximum 24"
 - c) Minimum 10", maximum 36"
 - d) Minimum 18", maximum 48"
 - e) Minimum 24", maximum 60"
14. A site is unsuitable for a subsurface septic system if the ground slope is more than ____%.
- a) 5%
 - b) 10%
 - c) 15%
 - d) 20%
 - e) 25%
15. The required fall for 25 feet of 4" solid pipe running from the home to the septic tank is ____.
- a) Minimum 2", maximum 24"
 - b) Minimum 3", maximum 30"
 - c) Minimum 4", maximum 36"
 - d) Minimum 6", maximum 48"
 - e) Minimum 8", maximum 48"
16. From the distribution box to any perforated pipe, the **minimum** separation distance is:
- a) 2 feet
 - b) 3 feet
 - c) 5 feet
 - d) 7.5 feet
 - e) 10 feet
17. The **minimum** distance a perimeter (curtain) drain may be from any part of the soil absorption trench.
- a) 5 feet
 - b) 7.5 feet
 - c) 10 feet
 - d) 15 feet
 - e) 20 feet
18. On a sloping site, absorption trenches of a gravity-fed soil septic system shall be constructed:
- a) However and wherever you choose
 - b) Running down the hill
 - c) In a circular pattern
 - d) Along the contour
 - e) Running up the hill toward the home
19. In a flood dosed (pump assisted) septic system, what is the discharge rate in gallons per minute (gpm) for a 3-bedroom home?
- a) 10-12 gpm
 - b) 20-25 gpm
 - c) 30-45 gpm
 - d) 50-60 gpm
 - e) 60-75 gpm

20. On new construction, what are the minimum and maximum allowable depths for a flood dose absorption trench?
- a) Minimum 6", maximum 18"
 - b) Minimum 8", maximum 24"
 - c) Minimum 10", maximum 36"
 - d) Minimum 18", maximum 48"
 - e) Minimum 24", maximum 60"
21. A jetted bathtub is treated as a bedroom equivalent for septic system sizing requirements if its capacity is greater than:
- a) 75 gallons
 - b) 100 gallons
 - c) 110 gallons
 - d) 125 gallons
 - e) 150 gallons
22. If a perimeter drain is required, how much deeper than the adjacent trench bottom must it be?
- a) 10 inches
 - b) 12 inches
 - c) 18 inches
 - d) 24 inches
 - e) 36 inches
24. Excessive _____ of the trench sidewalls or bottom during construction may result in irreversible damage to the infiltrative surface and may be grounds for rejection of the system.
- a) tearing
 - b) smearing
 - c) loading
 - d) turning
 - e) ripping
25. The best reason for not installing a septic system during periods of wet weather when the ground is muddy is:
- a) Your equipment will sink in the mud and you may not be able to finish the system.
 - b) The septic tank might float.
 - c) Your wife will kill you when you track mud into the house.
 - d) Severe compaction can occur on the site as heavy equipment is moved about.
 - e) Smearing of the trench sidewalls and bottom can damage those surfaces so water cannot infiltrate the soil.
 - f) Both a) and b)
 - g) Both d) and e)
26. Perimeter drains that outlet to the surface require:
- a) Vents
 - b) Rodent guards
 - c) Cleanouts
 - d) Caps so water discharge is prevented
 - e) Mosquito larvacides

27. Which of these situations requires that a residential sewage disposal system be pump-assisted?
- a) The system is being installed in a floodplain.
 - b) No aggregate is available.
 - c) The total lineal footage of the absorption field exceeds 330 feet.
 - d) The total lineal footage of the absorption field exceeds 500 feet.
28. What is the minimum allowable distance from any part of the absorption field to:
- a) A private well _____
 - b) Water lines under pressure _____
 - c) A pond, lake or reservoir _____
 - d) A stream or ditch _____
 - e) Dwelling, in-ground pool, or structures (upslope side) _____
 - f) Dwelling, in-ground pool, or structures (downslope side) ____min, ____max
29. Perforated, corrugated pipe may be used as lateral lines.
- a) True
 - b) False
30. Distribution boxes are designed to split the effluent equally among the effluent ports. Therefore the outlets must be at the same elevation.
- a) True
 - b) False
31. The bottom of an absorption trench shall not be installed below the elevation of the 100-year flood plain.
- a) True
 - b) False
32. Excessive smearing of the bottom and side walls of the absorption trenches is grounds for rejection of the system and/or the site.
- a) True
 - b) False
33. A septic tank that meets all requirements but is constructed of a plastic material is permitted.
- a) True
 - b) False
34. Cleanout risers (access manholes) attached to the tank or pump chamber must be made of concrete.
- a) True
 - b) False
35. After the septic permit is issued, it may be voided by the Health Department if the site is disturbed or altered by the unauthorized addition of fill material, by cutting, scraping, compaction, or removal of soil.
- a) True
 - b) False

36. Which one of the following is an indicator of a septic system failure?
- a) The system accepts sewage and all plumbing fixtures work properly.
 - b) Effluent is ponding on the surface of the ground.
 - c) The most-used toilet runs constantly.
 - d) The kitchen drain emits a foul odor.
 - e) The kitchen sink gurgles when the dishwasher is in operation.
37. State septic code prohibits water from the washing machine from entering the septic tank.
- a) True
 - b) False
38. Before a septic permit can be issued, in addition to a soils evaluation and site survey application, the location of all property lines, buildings, outbuildings, pools, driveways, tanks and lateral lines must be flagged out:
- a) to ensure the septic system will fit on the lot within the required setbacks.
 - b) so as to avoid all drainage ways by at least 200 feet.
39. **ESSAY QUESTION** - How can you tell if it is too wet to install a subsurface septic system? "The plastic limit of the soil is considered to be exceeded when "....."

40. Is the slope in this example too steep to install a subsurface gravity feed septic system?



HINT: $D \div R = \% \text{ SLOPE}$

Figure the percent slope here. Please show your work.

41. In new construction, the definition of a bedroom is: A room of 70 square feet or more with at least one closet, and having one operable window or exterior door for egress.
a) True
b) False
42. Your local health department may NOT be more stringent than the Indiana State Septic Code.
a) True
b) False
43. As of January 1, 2011, concrete distribution boxes are NO LONGER allowed.
a) True
b) False
44. A septic tank MAY be installed in a 100-year flood plain if the riser is installed above the 100-year flood elevation.
a) True
b) False
45. If the septic system requires a perimeter drain, it must be covered with geocloth prior to backfilling to prevent the aggregate from becoming clogged with soil/backfill.
a) True
b) False
46. Patios without footers, above-ground swimming pools, and sidewalks MAY BE located within 10 feet of the septic tank as long as no required access points are obstructed.
a) True
b) False

47. Residential sewer pipe (from the home to the tank) may have a vertical drop of up to 36" only if a cleanout is located immediately upslope.
- a) True
 - b) False
48. According to 410 IAC 6-8.2, what is the frost depth in Harrison County?
- a) 12"
 - b) 24"
 - c) 30"
 - d) 36"
 - e) 40"
49. Abandoned septic tanks must be backfilled with:
- a) debris-free sand or other granular material, concrete, or soil
 - b) stumps
 - c) construction debris
 - d) old tires
 - e) concrete and mean old mothers-in-law
50. An outlet filter shall be installed in the septic tank of:
- a) new on-site systems
 - b) existing systems that are undersized
 - c) existing systems with lateral field failure