

# **The Counties Guide for Approving Septage Land Application Sites**

## **Septic Tank Pumper Program**



**Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau  
Solid Waste Section**

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## **PURPOSE**

The information in this guidance is provided to assist in the health officer and county sanitarian evaluation of proposed land application sites for the disposal of wastes subject to the Septage Disposal and Licensure Law (SDL). The wastes include septage, grease trap waste, privy type waste, car wash sump waste, and other similar wastes. These similar wastes include, but are not limited to, other primarily liquid wastes such as food processing wastes, septic tank pumpings that contain commercial and industrial wastewater, and snow melt sump wastewater, that can be applied to the land for a beneficial purpose. Wastes must be managed in a way that is protective of human health and the environment.

# CHAPTER 1

## 1. OVERVIEW

Any person, who is in the business of cleaning cesspools, septic tanks, portable toilets, privies, grease traps, car wash sumps, or similar treatment works, or disposal of septage and other wastes from these devices, **cannot** obtain a license or do business in the State of Montana without an approved disposal site. The pumper business must complete and submit the “New Disposal Application Form” provided by Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MT DEQ) for each proposed disposal site. The options for disposal include:

### **a. WASTEWATER TREATMENT SITE:**

Septage may be placed at a permitted wastewater treatment plant only if the facility is designed and operated to handle septage in a manner protective of human health and the environment and is in compliance with the SDL laws and rules.

### **b. SEPTAGE PROCESSOR OR COMPOSTER:**

Septage may be placed at a licensed septage processor or licensed composting facility that is operated to handle septage in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment and is in compliance with the SDL laws and rules.

### **c. LANDFILL:**

Dewatered septage may be placed at a licensed Class II Landfill for disposal. Grease trap waste and sump type waste may be placed in dewatering pits at the landfill and then placed in the landfill for disposal.

### **d. LAND APPLICATION SITE:**

Land application is the spreading, spraying, injection, or incorporation of pumpings onto or below the surface of the land to take advantage of the soil enhancing qualities of the septage. Septage is land applied to improve the structure of the soil. It is also applied as a fertilizer to supply nutrients to crops and other vegetation grown in the soil. Certain management practices for land application of these pumpings must be followed. Sump waste dewatering pits at a land application site must be lined and approved by the local County Health Department.

## 2. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PUMPER BUSINESS

A currently licensed business who wants to add a new disposal site, or a new pumper business wanting to become licensed, must complete a “New Disposal Site Application Form” for all methods of disposal. The business must also complete a “Site Operation and Maintenance Plan Form”, and provide the appropriate map and diagram of the proposed land application site. A cultural resource file search must be requested from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on the proposed land application site. A copy of the SHPO file search results must be provided with the application. A “Vehicle Inspection Form” is required for any business that land applies waste.

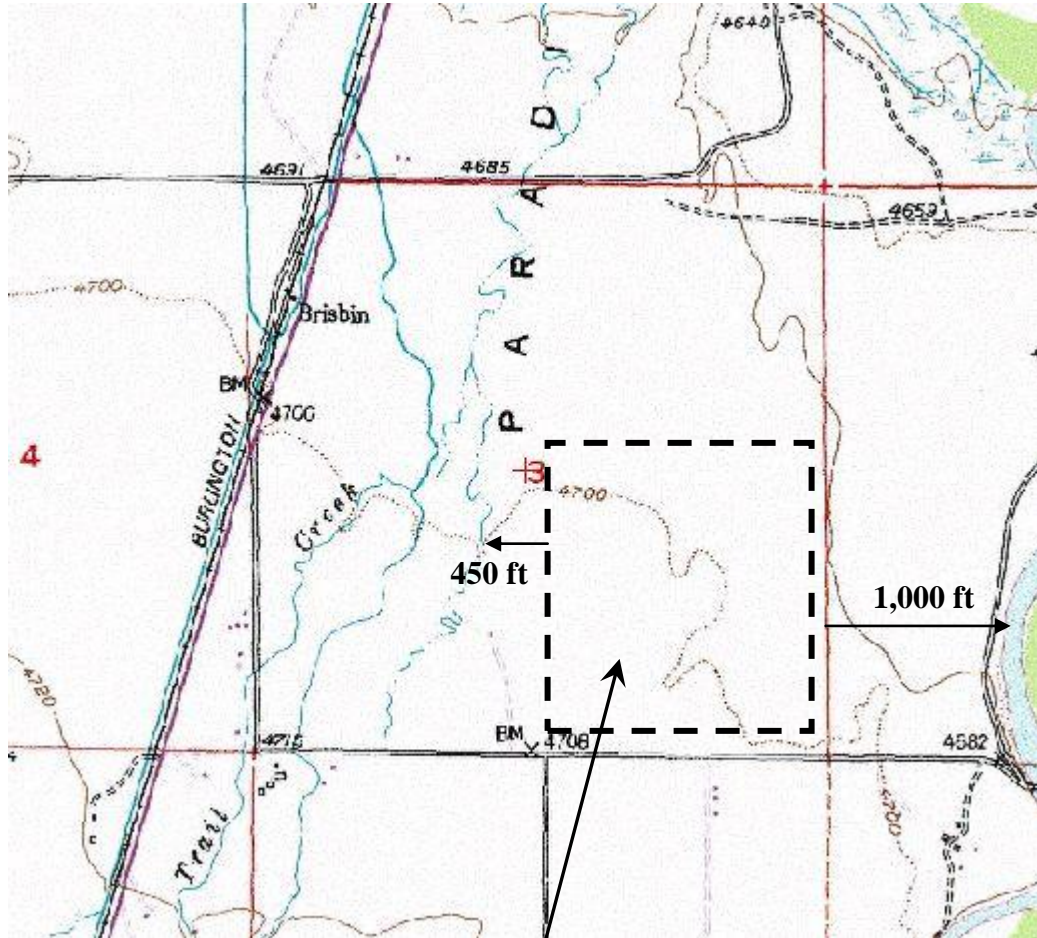
The pumper business must have the disposal site application form filled out to include: property owners contact information, site information, and the signature of the property owner or their designated representative. The pumper may need the health officer's or county sanitarian's assistance in obtaining the information on soil type, groundwater, slopes, distance to surface water, maps, and zoning issues. The following pages provide an example of a typical site topographic map and property map submitted with a completed application.

Section 3 LAND APPLICATION SITE INFORMATION (Complete ALL of Section 3 for Land Application sites)				
Property Owner Full Legal Name: <i>(ARM 17.50.803(5)a)</i>		Property Owner Business/Organization Name as filed or registered with the Montana Secretary of State office: <i>(ARM 17.50.803(5)(a))</i>		
Property Owner Phone Number:		Property Owner FEDERAL TAX ID #: <i>(Required if property owner is a business)</i>		
Property Owner Mailing Address:	City:	State:	Zip:	
Site Physical Address:	City:	State:	Zip:	
Directions to Site:				
Legal Description of Site: <i>(to nearest 1/4 section)</i> /4	Section:	Township:	Range:	County:
Number of acres available for land application:	Type of Crop:		Estimated Depth to Ground Water:	
Number of acres proposed for land application during license year:	Crop Nitrogen Requirement: (pounds per acre per year --- <i>lbs N/acre/yr</i> )		Source of Ground Water Information:	
Soil Type:	Present use of adjacent lands:	Approximate Slope:		
Distance to nearest building:	Distance to closest surface water:	Is site zoned: <i>(If yes, list Zone. Zoning/Planning Officer signature required for zoned areas)</i>		

The pumper business must set up an appointment with the local health officer or the local county sanitarian to review the application and conduct an inspection of the land application site. Once the site has been approved and certified by the local health officer or county sanitarian, the completed application package and license fee is sent to:

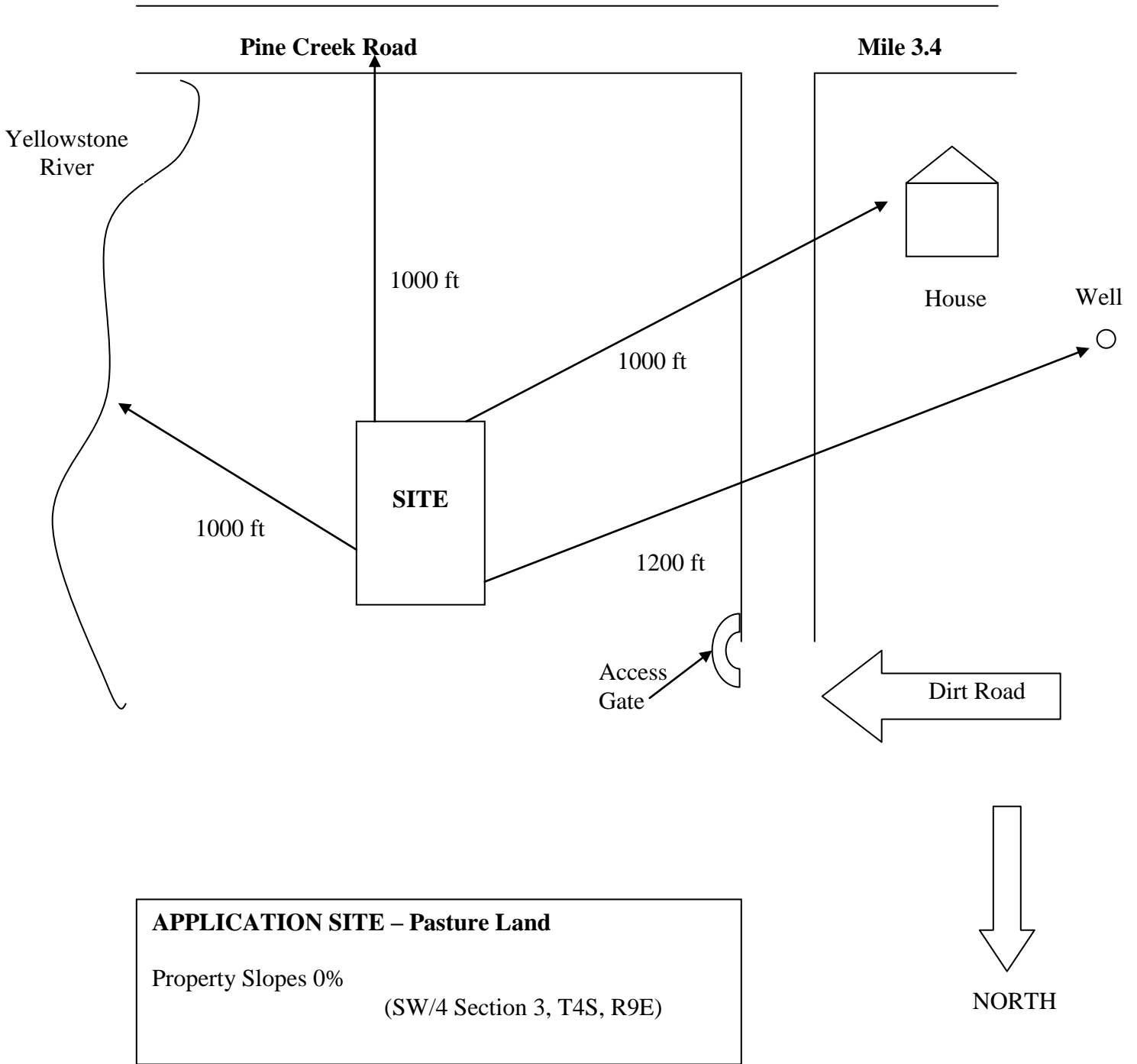
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Financial Services Division  
PO Box 200901  
Helena MT 59620-0901

## Land Application Site Topographic Map



Approximate land application site boundaries

# Map Diagram



# CHAPTER 2

## 1. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNTY SANITARIAN

The health officer or county sanitarian must review the “New Disposal Site Application Form”, “Site Operation and Maintenance Plan Form”, appropriate map(s) and diagram of the proposed land application site, and if required a “Vehicle Inspection Form”, to ensure that the information provided identifies the:

- Method of disposal.
- Types of waste to be land applied and estimated volumes of each waste.
- Property owner information.
- Proposed land application information.
- Signature of property owner or their designated representative. *Note: If land is leased from a tribe or governmental agency, permission of the tribe or agency must be obtained before pumpings may be applied to the land.*
- How will the site be maintained and operated (Operation and Maintenance Plan):
  - Site access controls;
  - Types and sources of wastes;
  - Vector attraction, pathogen reduction measures;
  - Applicable animal grazing and crop harvesting restrictions; **and**
  -
- Proposed application area with maps and diagram to include:
  - Property lines and boundary lines of the acreage available for land application, and the acreage proposed for use during the license year; **and**
  - All roads, homes, buildings, water wells, surface waters, canyons, ravines, and floodplains within 500 feet of the property boundary.

The health officer or county sanitarian must inspect the site to ensure requirements of the SDL are being met (ARM 17.50.809, ARM 17.50.810, and ARM 17.50.811):

- Will the pumpings be tilled, injected, or limed and applied to the surface of the land?
- Will the horizontal distance from the applied pumpings equal or exceed the following isolation distances:
  - **500 feet** of any occupied or inhabitable building. *Note: Stakes, flags, cones etc., may be required to identify setback.*
  - **150 feet** of any state surface water, including ephemeral or intermittent drainages and wetlands. *Note: (1) Greater distances may be required where slopes or other factors may increase the likelihood of runoff from the land application area. If an increase is needed, identify this as a license condition. (2) Stakes, flags, cones etc., may be required to identify setback.*
  - **100 feet** of any state, federal, county or city maintained highway or road. *Note: (1) The 100 feet setback is measured from the edge of any right-of-way. (2) Stakes, flags, cones etc., may be required to identify setback.*
  - **100 feet** of a drinking water supply source. *Note: (1) Greater distances may be required where site conditions might increase the likelihood of contamination of a*



*drinking water source. If an increase is needed identify this as a license condition. (2) Stakes, flags, cones etc., may be required to identify setback.*

- **six feet** separate the land surface from seasonally high ground water. ***Note:** Greater distances may be required where site conditions might increase the likelihood of contamination of ground water.*
- Pumpings will not be applied where ponding or runoff of septage is likely to occur. ***Note:** Remember to take into account topographical slopes on fields when selecting land application areas.* Slope restrictions will not exceed:
  - **6%** if pumpings are applied to the surface of land.
  - **12%** if pumpings are injected into land.
  - **3%** if pumpings are applied to frozen ground.
- Pumpings will not:
  - be applied to flooded, frozen, or snow covered ground if the pumpings may enter state waters. ***Note:** A berm can be constructed by the pumper business if warranted. Requiring berming should be identified as a license condition.*
  - be applied as bulk septage or other pumpings to agricultural land, forest land, pastureland, or rangeland at a rate greater than the agronomic rate of the site for nitrogen on an annual basis. ***Note:** Is there enough acreage to support the estimated volume and rotate the field annually?*
  - be applied directly or indirectly in a lake, pond, stream, river, or other body of water.
  - adversely affect threatened or endangered species or it's designated critical Habitat.
  - be applied to public contact sites or home lawns or gardens.

Inspect the site to ensure that local ordinances and laws are being met:

- Will the site meet local ordinances and laws?
- Do additional license conditions need to be added? If so, spell out such conditions in Section 3 of the application form or on additional paper and attach to the application. This can include but is not limited to:
  - Screening loads - If you determine litter control might be an issue for the proposed application area, screening the loads can be required. ***Note:** The screen must have a maximum opening width of three-quarters of an inch to remove the litter. All litter removed must be placed in a licensed Class II landfill for disposal.*
  - Fencing – If it is determined access restrictions cannot be met, fencing may be required. This is determined by the location of the site, the remoteness of the site, and land use.

- Posting signs – If fencing is not feasible, then posting signs identifying the hazards can be required. Not all sites will require this.



- Posting stakes, flags, cones – If problems are likely, the land application boundaries may be marked with setback stakes, flagging, or other markers. Most sites will not need this. Only where roads, state waters etc., might be overlooked due to vegetation etc., or if the pumper is unsure where the setback should be, or if the pumper has employees who will be land applying.
- Tilling Equipment – will the equipment adequately incorporate the pumpings into the soil? *Note: Depending on the site, a harrow may be used.*
- Injection Equipment – will the equipment inject the pumpings below the surface of the soil with no significant amount remaining on the land surface within one hour of injection?
- Liming Equipment – is the method chosen to add lime to the load feasible?
- pH testing Equipment – Is a monitor or litmus paper being used to test and ensure the level reaches and maintains a pH of 12 or higher for 30 minutes?
  - Does litmus paper have a pH range between 10 and 14 and have a sensitivity that can measure changes in pH at 0.1 increments.
  - Can the pumper show how the pH monitor is calibrated? *Note: This can be done by following the manufacturer's directions for calibration and use.*

### Reject Proposed Land Application Site

The health officer or county sanitarian may reject sites for public health or public nuisance problems or for failure to meet the SDL laws and rules.

If you reject the proposed site, **do not** sign the application. Attach an explanation to the original application as to why the site does not meet the requirements, and return it to the pumper. Mail a copy of the application and the attached explanation to:

MT DEQ/WUTMB  
 Solid Waste Section  
 Septic Tank Pumper Program  
 PO Box 200901  
 Helena, MT 59620-0901

# CHAPTER 3

**VEHICLE INSPECTIONS:**

The “Vehicle Inspection Form” will be completed by the health officer or county sanitarian for all pumpers land applying septage. A form will be completed for each vehicle the pumper business uses to land apply pumpings.

At this time vehicle inspections are only required once during the service life of the vehicle. However, additional inspections are required when:

- Modifications have been made to the truck.
- A dispersive mechanism has been added.
- A screening device has been added.
- Site violations require an inspection.
- Fire Season - If applying for a contract with the U.S. Forest Service, BLM, etc., for fire season, an annual inspection is required for contracting purposes. A current vehicle inspection form must accompany the contract being submitted every year.

The pumper business will complete the business information and vehicle information for each vehicle being used for land application.

SEPTIC TANK PUMPER VEHICLE INSPECTION			
Full Legal Name of Applicant: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Name of Business: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	DEQ License Number: <input style="width: 60%;" type="text"/> or <i>New Applicant</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Business Address: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	City: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	State: <input style="width: 60%;" type="text"/>	Zip: <input style="width: 60%;" type="text"/>
Mailing Address: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	City: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	State: <input style="width: 60%;" type="text"/>	Zip: <input style="width: 60%;" type="text"/>
County: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Phone Number: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Fax Number: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	

Make/Model of Vehicle: <input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Tank Size: <input style="width: 60%;" type="text"/>

The health officer or county sanitarian will complete the following:

YES	NO	<i>(answer Yes or No to the following questions)</i>	
		Is the vehicle equipped with the spreading equipment required by ARM 17.50.811(10)? Specify: <input type="text"/>	
		Is the spreading equipment mounted on the vehicle? Specify: <input type="text"/>	
		If the applicant is required to screen septage before land applying, is the vehicle, or site, equipped with the proper screening equipment (ARM 17.50.811(9))? Specify: <input type="text"/>	
Spreading equipment approved?		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Screening equipment approved?		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>

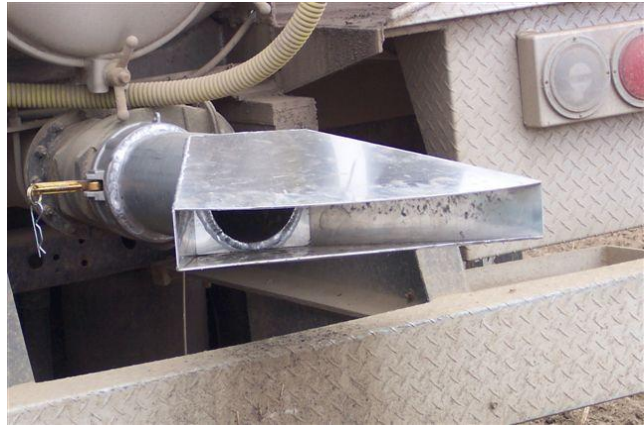
I, \_\_\_\_\_ am the Health Officer or Designated Representative of the County. I certify that, based on the above inspection, the vehicle listed above is equipped with the proper spreading and screening equipment.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONDUCTING A VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

1. All vehicles used in the pumping, transportation, and land application of waste will require an inspection. Inspect for the following:
  - Are all tanks and hoses being maintained so as not to create unreasonable odors or a public health hazard?
  - Is each tank watertight and show no signs of leaking?
  - Are all piping, valves, and connections accessible and capable of being cleaned?
  - Are all inlet and outlet connections and hose supports constructed and maintained so that no material will leak, spill, or drain from the tank or hoses during transfer or transportation?
  - Are the discharge outlets designed to control the flow of discharge without spraying or flooding the receiving area?
  - Is the vehicle equipped with a spreader bar, splash plate, or other dispersive mechanism that is either permanently affixed or detachable? Note: *This equipment is mandatory for all vehicles land applying.*
    - Is the dispersive device available for inspection and demonstration?



### Examples of Dispersive Devices

- Is screening equipment available for inspection and demonstration? Note: *Pumpers may opt to have this equipment for litter control, or it may be required by site location, or due to site violations by MT DEQ or County.*
  - Does the screening device have a maximum opening width of three-quarters inch?
  - Is the device capable of removing foreign or non-organic objects such as trash or other non-biodegradable objects?
  - Is the solid waste removed from the device to be handled in accordance with the SDL laws and rules?



### Examples of Screening Devices

## CHAPTER 4

### **ANNUAL APPLICATION RATE OR AGRONOMIC APPLICATION RATE (AAR)**

To determine if the site will support the quantity of waste being applied, the AAR must be determined. The AAR is the septage application rate that provides the amount of nitrogen needed by the food crop, feed crop, cover crop, or vegetation grown on the land *and* minimizes the amount of nitrogen in the septage that passes below the root zone of the crop or vegetation grown on the land and into the groundwater.

There are a few basic things you need to know before you determine the nitrogen requirement:

- Identify the Type of waste
- Identify Crop Type
- Determine Crop Yield
- Determine Nitrogen Requirement

#### **Identify Type of waste**

- Septage – has an AAR.
- Privy waste, pit toilet waste, portable toilet waste, vessel pumpout facility waste or recreational vehicle waste – has an AAR.
- Grease Trap Waste – does not have an AAR.
- Sump Waste – does not have an AAR.

#### **Identify Crop Type**

- This information can be obtained from the Farmer, Rancher, leasee, or the property owner.

#### **Determine Crop Yield**

- This information can be obtained from the Farmer, Rancher, leasee, or the property owner.
- Seed Supplier
- “Fertilizer Guidelines for Montana Crops” – *MSU Extension Service Publication #EB161*

#### **Determine Nitrogen Requirement**

- Sources of information on crop nitrogen requirements:
- Farmer
- Seed Supplier
- Soil Sample
- “Fertilizer Guidelines for Montana Crops” – *MSU Extension Service Publication #EB161*

## **CALCULATING THE AAR**

### **Septage:**

To calculate the AAR for septage, in **gallons/acre/year** use the formula  $AAR=N/0.0026$ , where N equals the amount of nitrogen, in pounds per acre per 365-day period, needed by the crop or vegetation grown on the land.

$$AAR \text{ (gallons/acre/year)} = \frac{\text{Pounds Nitrogen Required for Crop Yield}}{0.0026}$$

As an example, if 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre is required to grow a 40 bushel per acre crop of wheat, then the annual application rate of domestic septage is 38,500 gallons per acre.

$$AAR = \frac{100}{0.0026} = 38,500 \text{ gallons/acre/year}$$

The primary reason for this annual rate calculation is to prevent the over application of nitrogen in excess of crop needs and its potential movement through soil to groundwater.

### **Privy waste, pit toilet waste, portable toilet waste, vessel pumpout facility waste or recreational vehicle waste:**

Use the maximum AAR for privy waste, pit toilet waste, portable toilet waste, vessel pumpout facility waste or recreational vehicle waste, in **gallons/acre/year**, as determined by the formula  $AAR=N/0.0052$ , where N equals the amount of nitrogen in pounds per acre per 365-day period needed by the crop or other vegetation grown on the land.

$$AAR \text{ (gallons/acre/year)} = \frac{\text{Pounds Nitrogen Required for Crop Yield}}{0.0052}$$

As an example, if 100 pounds of nitrogen per acre is required to grow a 40 bushel per acre crop of wheat, then the annual application rate of domestic septage is 19,230 gallons per acre.

$$AAR = \frac{100}{0.0052} = 19,230 \text{ gallons/acre/year}$$

The primary reason for this annual rate calculation is to prevent the over application of nitrogen in excess of crop needs and its potential movement through soil to groundwater.

## CHAPTER 5

### ROUTINE SITE INSPECTIONS

The SDL is found in Title 75, Chapter 10, Part 12 of Montana Code Annotated (MCA). The SDL authorizes the MT DEQ and local health officer or the local health officer's designated representative (county sanitarian) to conduct inspections of:

- Proposed disposal facilities.
- Active disposal sites and appropriate records to determine if a violation of the SDL or ARM is occurring or has occurred.

When inspecting an active site determine:

- Type of disposal site:
  - Land Application Site
  - Septage Processor or Composter
  - Licensed Class II Landfill
  - Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Type of waste is being disposed at the site.
  - Land Application Of Septage/Portable Toilet/Vault Toilet Waste
  - Sump Waste Disposal
  - Grease Trap Waste Disposal
  - Graywater Disposal
- Application method being used at the site.
  - Surface Application
    - Tilling
  - Liming
  - Injection

An inspection checklist is provided on the next page for each type of waste and disposal records.



**SEPTIC PUMPER  
LAND APPLICATION OF SEPTAGE/PORTABLE TOILET/VAULT TOILET WASTE  
INSPECTION FORM**

Disposal Site Name and Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Pumper Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES NO N/A**

**Setbacks - Land Application**

500 feet **distance being maintained from any occupied or inhabitable building and application site?**

Is application occurring outside of any critical habitat or where threatened or endangered species may be impacted?

**150 feet** distance being maintained from any state waters?

100 feet **distance being maintained from any state, federal, county or city maintained road?**

**100 feet** distance being maintained from any drinking water supply source?

Application to land with **slopes less than 6%?**

**Subsurface injection** to land with slopes less than 12%?

**Application to land with seasonally high groundwater** less than 6-ft **below land surface?**

**Applying Pumpings To Frozen or Snow Covered Ground**

**Slopes at the active disposal site** less than or equal to 3%?

**Is the active disposal site outside the 100 year floodplain?**

**Is the waste being incorporated into the soil as soon as the weather permits?**

**Is run-off occurring at the site?**

Is the site bermed?

**Is the site creating a nuisance or causing a public health hazard?**

**Surface Application**

Incorporated into the soil within 6 hours?

**Litter being picked up within 6 hours?**

Correct pH level being maintained and monitored for alkaline material used for stabilization?

Approved spreader bar, splash plate or other dispersive mechanism being used when land applying septage?

Screening device in use has a maximum opening width of three-quarters of an inch?

If alkaline stabilization is not used is the **30 day** wait time for animals grazing on the land after application being adhered to?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If alkaline stabilization is not used, is the <b>1 year</b> restriction of access to land with a high potential for public exposure after application being adhered to?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If alkaline stabilization is not used, is the <b>30 day</b> restriction of access to land with a low potential for public exposure after application being adhered to?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If alkaline stabilization is not used, is the <b>1 year</b> wait time after application being adhered to prior to harvesting grown turf that will be placed on land/lawn with a high potential for public exposure?
<b><u>Subsurface Injection</u></b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Septage not being observed on the surface of the soil 1hr after injection?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Litter being picked up within 6 hours?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>If alkaline stabilization is not used, is the 30 day wait time for animals grazing on the land after application being adhered to?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If alkaline stabilization is not used, is the <b>1 year</b> restriction of access to land with a high potential for public exposure after application being adhered to?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If alkaline stabilization is not used, is the <b>30 day</b> restriction of access to land with a low potential for public exposure after application being adhered to?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If alkaline stabilization is not used, is the <b>1 year</b> wait time after application being adhered to prior to harvesting grown turf that will be placed on land/lawn with a high potential for public exposure?
<b><u>Crops</u></b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>30 days</b> wait time for harvesting of food, feed, and fiber crops after application of septage?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>14 month</b> wait time for harvesting of food crops with <b>harvested parts</b> touching septage?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>20 month</b> wait time for <b>harvesting below ground food crops</b> if septage was incorporated <b>4 months</b> after application?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>38 month</b> wait time for <b>below ground food crops</b> if septage was incorporated <b>&lt;4 months</b> after application?
<b><u>Recordkeeping</u></b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Are disposal records being maintained for 5 years?</b>
Do the records contain the following:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Types of material disposed of in each disposal site?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name of disposal site or other description?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Volumes of each waste type?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date and time of each disposal?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land application site -number of acres?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land application site - vector attraction and pathogen reduction method identified?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Have disposal records been submitted to the Department for the required reporting period?</b>
<b><u>Comments:</u></b>			

**SEPTIC PUMPERS**  
**SUMP WASTE DISPOSAL - INSPECTION FORM**

Disposal Site Name and Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Pumper Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES NO N/A**

**Land Application**

**What type of sump waste is being disposed at this site?**

**Automatic car wash sump waste?**

**Attended a car wash sump waste?**

**Unattended carwash sump waste?**

**Other sump waste?**

**Litter being picked up within 6 hours?**

**Is a spreader bar, splash plate or other dispersive mechanism being used for land application?**

**Are the pumping free of chlorinated solvents?**

**Is a solvent-free written statement available from the owner of the waste?**

**Are analytical reports available for the waste?**

**Did the testing include volatile organic compounds, petroleum hydrocarbon, and total metals for chromium, lead, zinc, and cadmium?**

**Was another type of test conducted due to source? If yes, what: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Is there visible oil and grease present in the waste?**

**Dewatering Pit**

**Is the pit lined?**

**Is litter being removed and properly disposed of?**

**Are the de-watered solids being removed and land applied? If yes, where:**

**Is the de- watering pit being maintained in accordance with the Operation and Maintenance Plan?**

**Licensed Class II Landfill**

**Is the facility open 24 hours for disposal? If no, what are the hours for disposal: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Is access restricted? If yes, how:**

**Are loads tracked at the facility? If yes, how:**

**Are loads restricted by waste type? Which type is allowed:**

**Does the facility require written documentation of the non-hazardous status of the sump waste?**

**Is this type of operation identified in the facility's Operation and Maintenance Plan?**

<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Is the material being used as clean fill, as daily cover, or intermediate landfill cover? If yes, which: _____
<b><u>Wastewater Treatment Disposal</u></b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is the facility open 24 hours for disposal? If no, what are the hours for disposal:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Is access restricted? If yes, how:
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Are loads tracked at the facility? If yes, how:
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Are loads restricted by volume?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Are loads restricted by waste type? What types are allowed:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Does the facility require written documentation of the non-hazardous status of the sump waste?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Does the facility require testing prior to acceptance of sump waste?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Are loads required to be screened by the facility prior to disposal?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is the facility a lagoon only?</b>
<b><u>Comments:</u></b>	
<b><u>Recordkeeping</u></b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Are disposal records being maintained for 5 years?</b>
Do the records contain the following:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Types of material disposed of in each disposal site?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Name of disposal site or other description?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Volumes of each waste type?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Date and time of each disposal?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Land application site -number of acres?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Land application site - vector attraction and pathogen reduction method identified?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Have disposal records been submitted to the Department for the required reporting period?</b>
<b><u>Comments:</u></b>	

**SEPTIC PUMPERS  
GREASE TRAP WASTE DISPOSAL  
INSPECTION FORM**

Disposal Site Name and Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Pumper Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES NO N/A**

**Land Application**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Litter being picked up within 6 hours?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Incorporated into the soil within 6 hours?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is a spreader bar, splash plate or other dispersive mechanism being used for land application?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is subsurface injection being used?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is liquid being observed on the surface of the soil 1hr after injection?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If in use, does the screening device have a maximum opening width of three-quarters of an inch?

**Applying Pumpings To Frozen or Snow Covered Ground**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Slopes at the active disposal site less than or equal to 3%?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is the active disposal site outside the 100 year floodplain?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is the waste being incorporated into the soil as soon as the weather permits?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is run-off occurring at the site?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the site bermed?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is the site creating a nuisance or causing a public health hazard?</b>

**Dewatering Pit**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is the pit lined?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is litter being removed and properly disposed of?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Are the de-watered solids being removed and land applied? If yes, where:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is the site creating a nuisance or causing a public health hazard?</b>

**Licensed Class II Landfill**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is the facility open 24 hours for disposal? If no, what are the hours for disposal:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is access restricted? If yes, how:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are loads tracked at the facility? If yes, how:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is this type of operation identified in the facility's Operation and Maintenance Plan??
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the de- watering pit(s) being maintained in accordance with the Operation and Maintenance Plan?

**Composting**

<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Is the facility licensed?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Is this type of operation identified in the facility's Operation and Maintenance Plan?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Is composting being done in accordance with the Operation and Maintenance Plan?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Is the waste being dewatered prior to being added to the compost? If yes, where:
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is the use of this type of waste attracting wildlife?</b>
	<b><u>Wastewater Treatment Disposal</u></b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is the facility open 24 hours for disposal? If no, what are the hours for disposal:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Is access restricted? If yes, how:
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Are loads tracked at the facility? If yes, how:
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Are loads restricted by volume?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Are loads required to be screened by the facility prior to disposal?
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is the facility a lagoon only?</b>
<b><u>Comments:</u></b>	

**SEPTIC PUMPERS  
GRAYWATER DISPOSAL  
INSPECTION FORM**

Disposal Site Name and Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Pumper Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES NO N/A**

**Setbacks - Land Application**

- |                          |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 150 feet <b>distance being maintained from any state waters?</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Application to land with seasonally high groundwater <b>less than 6-ft below</b> land surface?           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Approved spreader bar, splash plate or other dispersive mechanism being used when land applying septage? |

**Wastewater Treatment Disposal**

- |                          |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Is the facility open 24 hours for disposal? If no, what are the hours for disposal:</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Is access restricted? If yes, how:   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are loads tracked at the facility? If yes, how:  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Are loads restricted by volume?</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Are loads restricted by waste type? What types are allowed:</b>                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are loads required to be screened by the facility?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Is the facility a lagoon only?</b>  |

**Comments:**

## SEPTIC PUMPERS DISPOSAL RECORDS - INSPECTION FORM

Disposal Site Name and Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Pumper Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES NO N/A**

**Recordkeeping**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Are disposal records being maintained for 5 years?</b>
			Do the records contain the following:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Types of material disposed of in each disposal site?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name of disposal site or other description?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Volumes of each waste type?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date and time of each disposal?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land application site -number of acres?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land application site - nitrogen requirements identified for crop or vegetation?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land application site - vector attraction and pathogen reduction method identified?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land application site - pH of material 30 minutes after alkali stabilization?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Source of septage and name of hauler?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Record of landowners objections to alkali stabilized septage?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Have disposal records been submitted to the Department for the required reporting period?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Permission slip for tank owner disposal?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permission slip for fire camp disposal?

**Comments:**



## CHAPTER 6

### **Septic Tank Pumper Web Page**

The Montana DEQ - Septic Tank Pumper web page can provide additional information for your agency and the pumper businesses in your county. The following is the web link:

<http://deq.mt.gov/SolidWaste/pumpers.mcpX>

On the main page, there are links to the following forms, guides, and power point training slides, which are available for you to download:

#### **Forms**

- License Application Form
- Renewal Application Form
- New Disposal Site Application Form
- Operation and Maintenance Outline Form
- Vehicle Inspection Form
- Disposal Site Permission Slip Form
- Disposal Record Forms

#### **Guides**

- Septic Pumper Guide
- Montana Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems
- The County Sanitarians Guide for Approving Land Application Sites
- "Fertilizer Guidelines for Montana Crops" – *MSU Extension Service Publication #EB161*

#### **Training Slides** (Additional slides will be added periodically)

- How to select a land application site
- Land application site operation and maintenance
- Guidelines for disposal of sump and grease trap waste
- Septic System Service Providers
- Annual Application Rates

Under the Septic Tank Pumper Program on the left-hand side of the page, there are additional links to:

Environmental Assessment  
Currently Licensed Septic Pumpers  
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Annual STP Training Conference & Tradeshow

## Solid Waste Management

[Solid Waste Program Contacts](#)  
[DEQ Staff Directory](#)  
[DEQ Business Processes](#)  
[Laws and Rules](#)  
[Email Us](#)

### Septic Tank Pumper Program

[Environmental Assessments](#)  
[Currently Licensed Septic Pumpers](#)  
[Advisory Committee](#)  
[Meeting Minutes](#)  
[2011 Annual STP Training Conference & Tradeshow](#)

### Solid Waste Program

[Environmental Assessments](#)  
[Anthrax Disposal Concerns](#)  
[Fees, Forms & Requirements](#)  
[Newsletters and Notices](#)  
[Training](#)  
[Advisory Committee](#)  
[Solid Waste Legal/Public Notices](#)

[Junk Vehicle Program](#)  
[Waste & Underground Storage Tank Management Bureau](#)  
[Permitting & Compliance Division](#)

[Home](#) » [Solid Waste](#) » [Septic Tank Pumper Information](#)

## Septic Tank Pumper Program

The Septic Tank Pumper program reviews and licenses Cesspool, Septic Tank and Privy Cleaners. We also inspect disposal sites for septic tank, grease trap and sump wastes.

Use the links to the forms below to apply for a new Septic Tank Pumper License or to renew a current Septic Tank Pumper License. These documents are in Adobe Acrobat pdf format. If you don't have the free Acrobat reader software installed you can find it by clicking on the Acrobat icon on the left navigation bar.

<i>Forms - PDF Format</i>	<i>Forms - Microsoft Word Format</i>
<a href="#">Application</a>	No Word Format Available
<a href="#">New Disposal Site Application</a>	No Word Format Available
<a href="#">Renewal Application</a>	No Word Format Available
<a href="#">Operation and Maintenance Outline</a>	No Word Format Available
<a href="#">Vehicle Inspection Form</a>	No Word Format Available
<a href="#">Disposal Site Permission Slip</a>	No Word Format Available
<a href="#">Holding Tank Summary Log Form</a>	<a href="#">Holding Tank Summary Log Form</a>
<a href="#">Land Application Summary Log Form</a>	<a href="#">Land Application Summary Log Form</a>
<a href="#">Waste Water Treatment Summary Log Form</a>	<a href="#">Waste Water Treatment Summary Log Form</a>
<i>Guide - PDF Format</i>	<i>Guide - Microsoft Word Format</i>
<a href="#">Septic Pumper Guide</a>	not available
<a href="#">Montana Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems</a>	not available

## NEW Training for Septic Pumpers

These presentations have been used by the state to train septic pumpers. They have been published on the website to provide reference material for the regulated community. Click on the links below to view each presentation:

<i>Microsoft Power Point Presentations</i>
<a href="#">How to select a land application site</a>
<a href="#">Land application site operation and maintenance</a>
<a href="#">Guidelines for disposal of sumps and grease</a>
<a href="#">Septic System Service Providers</a>
<a href="#">Annual Application Rates</a>

## Important Dates to Remember

Licenses expire **December 31**. Septic Tank Pumper renewal applications must be received by the Department of Environmental Quality no later than **January 31**.

Licenses have until **April 1**, to renew their licenses without a late fee. After April 1 the late fee is an additional \$125.00. **After April 1** the Department may assess additional penalties for operators who are pumping without their licenses.

Mail the signed forms with the required fee of \$300.00 to:

Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
 Financial Services  
 PO Box 200901  
 Helena MT 59620-0901

