

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

FAQ'S

Septic Tank Systems

How do I obtain a septic tank system permit?

Have a soils analysis performed on your lot is the first step. The person who performs the soils analysis will also design your system. Submit the information your septic designer gives you with the permit application (Notice of Intent to Discharge) to the Apache County Public Health Services District, 75 West Cleveland, Saint Johns, Arizona 85936 with a check for the construction permit.

How much does a construction permit cost?

The cost for septic tank system with leach trenches, a leach bed or chambers is \$300.00. Permits for all other types of septic tank systems cost \$550.00.

Can I install my own septic tank system?

Lot owners may install a septic tank system on their own property. A lot owner needs to have a soils analysis performed on their lot and submit plans and other documents. The system needs to meet Arizona State standards and must be inspected by the Apache County Public Health Services District inspector.

May I use a composting toilet?

A composting toilet that is approved by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality may be used in conjunction with a gray water system. Water from the kitchen sink and dishwashing machine must be disposed sub-surface. Also, the State rules require that the gray water be diverted into a tank if the gray water disposal system becomes blocked. A tank of sufficient capacity for the gray water and kitchen sink water/ dish washing machine must be installed and the waste water disposed of sub-surface. A soils analysis, permits and plans are required.

Can I build my own septic tank?

Arizona State regulations prohibits site built septic tanks.

How long does it take to receive my septic tank permit?

Plan on seven to ten working days after you submit your application for your septic tank system permit to be issued. It may take longer if additional information is needed by the reviewer.

How long is my permit good for?

The septic tank system must be installed within two years from the date the permit is issued. If the system is not installed within two years a new application must be submitted with another permit fee.

What if I want to change the location of the septic tank system after it is approved?

Most likely additional soils analyses will need to be performed and a new site plan submitted. There will be an additional plan review fee of \$100.00.

Where do I find a person to perform the soil analysis?

Contact the Apache County Public Health Services District for a list of certified people.

When does the Apache County Public Health Services District conduct inspections of septic tank systems?

Inspections of septic tank systems are conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A twenty-four-hour notice before the inspection is requested so inspections may be scheduled to make the most efficient use of the inspector's time.