

**NEW MEXICO STATE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

**New Installation Requirements Included in September 2005 Liquid Waste Disposal and Treatment Regulations**

Liquid Waste Disposal and Treatment Regulations, effective September 1, 2005, include changes that affect the installation of liquid waste systems. These changes include:

- A. All manholes on new installations must have risers to grade with secure lids, as described in 20.7.3 NMAC, Sections 502.D and 501.E, respectively. A secure lid shall consist of one or more of the following:
  - (1) a padlock;
  - (2) a twist lock cover requiring special tools for removal;
  - (3) covers weighing 58 pounds or more, net weight;
  - (4) a hinge and hasp mechanism that uses stainless steel or other corrosion resistant fasteners to fasten the hinge and hasp to the lid and tank for fiberglass, metal or plastic lids; or
  - (5) other mechanisms approved by the department.
- B. All conventional system installations must include an effluent filter, installed either at the outlet, inside the tank, or before final discharge to the drainfield on the outside of the tank. The filter must have an access riser to grade. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Section 502.H.
- C. All conventional drainfield system installations must include capped inspection ports, minimum 4-inch SDR 35 or better, installed at the end of each trench, brought to grade. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Section 701.D.
- D. Drainfield sizing has changed. MOST soils require 2.00 s.f./gal/day, instead of 1.27 or 1.67 s.f./gal/day. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Table 703.1 below:

Soil Type	Soil Texture	Application Rate (sq.ft./gal/day)
Ia	Coarse Sand	1.25(also requires secondary treatment and disinfection)
Ib	Medium Sand, Loamy Sand	2.00
II	Sandy Loam, Fine Sand, Loam	2.00
III	Silt, Silt Loam, Clay Loam, Sandy Clay Loam	2.00
IV	Sandy Clay, Silty Clay, Clay	5.00(also requires secondary treatment with a low pressure dosed disposal system).

- E. Percolation tests are no longer required.
- F. Floor plans, or verification of the system flow, must be submitted with the permit application. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Section 402.A.4.
- G. End caps must be placed on all distribution lines. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Section 701.A

- H. Geotextile fabric may be used instead of aggregate to cover conventional drainfield lines. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Section 701.B
- I. The maximum length of any single drainfield line is 150 feet. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Section 701.H.
- J. In sizing of conventional drainfields, the minimum trench width is 1 foot, maximum width is 3 feet. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Section 703.J.1.
- K. In sizing of conventional drainfields, 6 inches of the 1 foot minimum trench depth below the pipe will not be counted as sidewall in the overall area calculation. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Section 703.J.2.
- L. In sizing of conventional drainfields, a maximum of 7 s.f./l.f. of trench will be allowed. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Section 703.J.5.
- M. A minimum of 12-inches of aggregate is still required below the invert of the pipe in conventional systems. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Section 703.K.1.
- N. A maximum reduction of 30% of the drainfield area will be allowed, including reductions for proprietary drainfield products and advanced treatment systems, or both. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Section 703.M.
- O. Effluent may only be discharged subsurface. See 20.7.3 NMAC, Section 805.
- P. RV waste disposal in new conventional septic systems requires additional treatment; restrictions on water softener backwash water to advanced treatment units.
- Q. Undeveloped lots, platted before 2/1/90, smaller than ½ acre can't install conventional septic systems. Undeveloped lots, platted before 2/1/90, smaller than ¾ acre, can't install conventional septic systems if depth to groundwater is less than 100 feet, or if the system is within 200 feet of a community well. In these cases, advanced treatment must be used.
- R. Contractors with licenses to install septic systems (MM-98, MM-01 & MS-03) are accepted by NMED as certified inspectors until December 1, 2005. NAWT certified inspectors are accepted by NMED as certified inspectors.

For more complete information, the new Liquid Waste Disposal and Treatment Regulations can be viewed or downloaded on the Liquid Waste Program website at [www.nmenv.state.nm.us/fod/LiquidWaste](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/fod/LiquidWaste). You can also contact the local NMED Field Office, or call Tom Brandt at 505-476-8609.