

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I install my own Septic System?

Yes you can, however if you hire any person to do any of the work other than hiring a licensed electrician to do wiring, the hired person must hold the appropriate OSSF Installer License.

Where can I locate an OSSF to help me?

OSSF Installers may be located best by word of mouth, Yellow Pages, Newspaper Advertising. You may also perform an internet search for the following: TCEQ OSSF Installer Database. There you will find a search engine that will allow you to search for installers by name, county, etc.

Do I have to put in an Aerobic System?

Not necessarily. There are two important factors in determining what type of system you may install in most cases. One, soil class and texture and two, presence of seasonally high water table indicator. It is fair to say that 90% of the time in Titus County the two above factors will cause a system other than a traditional conventional system to be required.

Why is an Aerobic System with Surface Application (spray heads) emitting a foul odor?

There are two primary causes for this. First, the air pump is not on, or not working sufficiently to introduce enough air to the treatment tank. Secondly, the system may be overloaded from a very large gathering causing the septic discharge to the system to exceed the designed load for a given amount of time. NOTE: While disinfectant, such as Chlorine, is required with all spray application systems, it is not what is needed to make the odor go away. If the system is stinking, it is recommended that the owner contact a licensed Installer who is familiar with the particular brand of system.

What type of repairs to my system are likely to trigger the need for a "new permit"?

Any work on any portion of the lateral lines on an existing conventional system requires a permit. Repairs to solid lines, tank lids, broken Chlorinators, Sprinkler Heads, Electrical Components, Pumps, etc. DO NOT REQUIRE A NEW PERMIT.

If I receive a written notice of violation and fail to make repairs, how much could I be fined?

Each day the violation existed beyond the reasonable repair time given could result in up to a \$500.00 fine for each violation and with each day the violation exists being a separate and new violations. In flagrant cases, it is not unheard of for 5 to 10 days

worth of violations to be filed with the Justice of Peace Court, however this is unusual and seldom a required method of enforcement. Most violators, make repairs in a reasonable amount of time.

My septic system has failed, I do not have the money to replace it, I am unable to procure a loan to replace it, and my family is living at or near poverty levels.

Provided that your property is in your name, even if you are making payments, occasionally, there are grant monies available through Environmental SEP grants. You must request the help of your local Designated Representative to obtain one of these grants. NOTE: Most inspectors are reluctant to file criminal charges against any family who is doing everything they can to correct the situation so make sure you make your D.R. aware of your efforts even if it looks like your time limit has expired.

Are there any other Licensed individuals whom I can turn to, to obtain guidance on how to proceed with correcting my failed septic system?

Yes, Registered Sanitarians, licensed through the Texas Department of Health are a great source of information and they, as well as Licensed Professional Engineers, meet the qualifications to provide a design for Aerobic Surface Application systems as well as provide certain other required elements of installing a new OSSF.