SepticSmart Week 2019: Promoting Best Practices for Community Involvement

September 18, 2019 1:00-3:00 P.M. ET
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SepticSmart Week – General Overview

Zach Lowenstein
EPA’s Decentralized Wastewater Program

What is SepticSmart Week?

• Outreach and education campaign to encourage homeowners to properly maintain and operate their septic systems

• Falls on the third week of September each year, since 2012

• Largest national scale septic system education awareness campaign

• MOU Partners are instrumental in disseminating SepticSmart products and messages
Recent Products – Quick Tips

Don’t Strain Your Drain!

Shield Your Field!

Protect It and Inspect It!

Think at the Sink!

Don’t Overload the Commode!

Keep it Clean!

Pump Your Tank!

Use water efficiently and alternate use of water-based appliances (such as a washing machine) to avoid a backup of your septic system into your house. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.

Tree and shrub roots, cars, and livestock can damage your drainfields. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.

Regular septic system maintenance can save homeowners thousands of dollars and protect public health. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.

What goes down your drain has a big impact on your septic system. Avoid harsh chemicals and use chlorine-free detergents in moderation. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.

A toilet is not a trashcan. Disposables diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products, periodontal tools, cat litter and much more can damage your septic system. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.

If you have a well, many things can contaminate your drinking water, such as a flooding septic system. Test your well water regularly. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.

Ensure your septic tank is inspected at regular intervals as recommended by a professional and/or local permitting authority. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.
Recent Products—Updated Infographic

Do Your Part. Be SepticSmart!

- Shield Your Field: Direct rain and surface water away from your septic tank.
- Don’t Overload the Commode: Don’t flush diapers, wipes, or other items meant for a trash can down the toilet.
- Think at the Sink: Limit use of your garbage disposal and avoid pouring fats, greases, solids, and harsh chemicals down the drain.
- Don’t Strain Your Drain: Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances, such as your washing machine or dishwasher.
- Keep It Clean: If you are on a well, test your drinking water regularly to ensure it remains clean and free of contamination.

- Protect It and Inspect It: Your septic system should be serviced every two to three years by a licensed septic professional.
- Pump Your Tank: Your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended by a professional.
- Aquifer: Groundwater Recharge: The importance of groundwater recharge for maintaining a healthy water table.

EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Logo
Recent Products – Posters
Recent Products – Septic System Diagrams
¡No recargue el drenaje!

Sea eficiente: los aparatos que funcionan con agua (como la lavadora de ropa) deben usarse unos por uno para evitar recargar el sistema séptico de su casa. Obtenga más información en www.epa.gov/septic.

Los 10 hábitos para mantener su sistema séptico en buen estado

- Llave que un profesional calificado inspeccione su sistema séptico cada tres años, o según las recomendaciones de su estado o el departamento de salud de su lugar.
- Bombeo su tanque séptico cuando sea necesario, por lo general entre tres a cinco años.
- Evite actuar productos irritantes por la tubería (por ej., perfume, crema, químicos, pinturas, medicamentos).
- Tire los productos no descomponerse en la basura (por ej., metales, productos caseros, aceite, grasa, productos de jardín, entre otros).
- Evite que los automóviles y vehículos pesados se jaten del área de drenaje y del tanque.
- Siga las indicaciones del fabricante cuando utilice líquidos sanitarios y aditivos para el tanque séptico.
- Repare las fugas y edificios que les ocurran al sistema.
- Corte los platos y vegetación cerca del sistema para asegurarse de que no se dañen los drenajes.
- Use detergentes y desinfectantes de peo espuma, brocográteres y sin uso con pocas fiestas.
- Evite que el sistema se cargue en épocas de temperaturas bajas para lo cual deberá inspeccionar y ajustar las partes más delicadas (por ej., el tubo de inspección y el área de transición del suelo).

¿Tiene un sistema séptico?

Llame a un proveedor de servicios de sistemas sépticos para que le revise el suyo.

Un mantenimiento regular del sistema puede ahorrarle miles de dólares!
Just Released – New SepticSmart Magnet

Protect Your Septic System!

- **AVOID FLUSHING**
  Disposable diapers and wipes, sanitary products, medications, cat litter, etc.

- **AVOID POURING**
  Harsh chemicals, grease, and coffee grounds down the drain.

Regular septic system maintenance can save thousands of dollars!

Learn more at [www.epa.gov/septic](http://www.epa.gov/septic) or contact your local environmental office.
Welcome! Did you know this property is served by a septic system?

Please help us be SepticSmart by taking steps to ensure that our septic system continues to operate as expected – helping protect the environment and ensuring a good stay. Whatever goes down our toilet, sink, or shower pipe ends up in our septic system and affects how well it works.

Please do your part to be SepticSmart by taking these simple steps:

- **Think at the Sink:** Please keep grease, fats, harmful chemicals, and hair out of the drain. They can clog or damage our system and can cause expensive plumbing issues.
- **Don’t Overload the Composting:** Please do not flush non-degradable items such as dental floss, diaper wipes, hygiene products, or hair.
- **B: Water Wise:** Stagger use of water-based appliances among guests. All extra water in this home’s septic tank ends up in the septic system. Efficient water use improves the operation of a septic system and reduces the risk of failure.
- **B: Mindful of Guests:** If there are more people staying in our home than our septic system was designed to support, your guests may overload the system and mess up our stay. This is one reason why we cannot accept more than the maximum number of guests.
- **When in Doubt, Follow the Easy Rule of Thumb:** Do not flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper. If you perceive an issue with our plumbing, please call us. In the rare instance that sewage should back up into our home, avoid contact with it.

Following these easy steps will not only avoid septic system issues but will also help ensure an enjoyable stay.

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Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart

**To protect this home’s plumbing, please keep grease, fats, and harmful chemicals out of the drain.**

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Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart

This home has a septic system. To prevent plumbing problems, keep hygiene products, hair, wipes, medicine, trash, and other products out of the toilet and drain.
How to access SepticSmart Week materials?

Septic Systems (Onsite/Decentralized Systems)

Do Your Part, Be Septic Smart!
Encouraging homeowners, wastewater professionals, and state, tribal, and local officials to design and maintain effective systems to protect public health, preserve valuable water resources, and sustain economic vitality in their communities.

View recent SepticSmart webcasts:
- Career Perspectives in Decentralized Wastewater Management
- State Examples of Septic System Data Management
- Innovative Septic Improvement Program in Suffolk County, NY

Save the Date!
SepticSmart Week 2019
September 16-20, 2019

- View and download 2019 SepticSmart Week materials
- View and download other Outreach Tools
How to access SepticSmart Week materials?

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Septic Systems Outreach Toolkit

Across the country, local environmental groups, health departments, and governments face challenges posed by improperly maintained and failing septic systems. EPA assists these local agencies in promoting homeowner education and awareness.

The Outreach Toolkit contains materials targeted to homeowners that can be downloaded from this website and printed. These materials show how many organizations have launched successful homeowner education programs.

SepticSmart Materials
How to access SepticSmart Week materials?

SepticSmart Materials

Download the high-resolution PDF files for easy printing and distribution to homeowners living on properties serviced by septic systems in your area. Customize the WORD files to meet your needs.

SepticSmart Week Proclamation

Want to develop a SepticSmart Week Proclamation in your area? Use the editable proclamation template to get started:

- SepticSmart Week Proclamation for Governors (WORD) (1 pg, 109 K)
- SepticSmart Week Proclamation for Mayors (WORD) (1 pg, 109 K)
- SepticSmart Week Proclamation for Leaders (WORD) (1 pg, 111 K)

SepticSmart Posters

Do you know of any parks, campgrounds, highway rest stops, or similar facilities, that use a septic system for their public restrooms? What about a restaurant on a site that is served by a septic system? Use these informative posters to print.

Quick Tips to Keep Your Septic System Healthy

Looking for a quick and easy guide on how to care for your septic system?

Check out this diagram and learn how to do your part:

- Do Your Part, Get SepticSmart! Infographic (English version and Spanish version)

SepticSmart Week Quick Tips

These easy to remember phrases and quick tips make staying SepticSmart a breeze. Download these images and share them on social media, print them for home or business use, or use them as outreach materials. High resolution versions for larger sized printing (i.e., posters) are available upon request.

- Think at the Sink! (English version and Spanish version)
- Don't Strain Your Drain! (English version and Spanish version)
- Keep It Clean! (English version and Spanish version)
- Shield Your Field! (English version and Spanish version)
- Protect It and Inspect It! (English version and Spanish version)
- Don't Overload the Commodel! (English version and Spanish version)
- Pump Your Tank! (English version and Spanish version)
Partner Highlights from SepticSmart Week 2018

- More than 2.6 million Twitter impressions from posts using #SepticSmart
- 18 proclamations: 10 states, 1 local County and 7 NGOs - including 5 MOU Partners that are NGOs
- Video interview with Vermont’s Dept of Environmental Conservation
- Training for service providers in New York, and homeowner sessions and trainings in Arkansas, Michigan, Washington and Georgia
- Outreach to more than 50+ tribes in EPA Region 9 through site visits, trainings, newsletters and information sharing
Local Media (TV and Radio)

Health department reminds residents to have septic systems serviced

Times Record  Published 17:07 p.m. ET Sept. 14, 2016

According to a health department news release, about 22.3% of homes in St. Clair County use septic systems to treat their wastewater.

Septic systems can be less expensive than public sewers, and they are a personally controlled solution to sanitation.

The following information was provided by Chesprocott Health District.

Chesprocott Health District

The Department of Public Health (DPH), the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Chesprocott Health District are teaming up to present Septic Smart Week 2018, an annual event focused on educating homeowners and communities on the proper care and maintenance of their septic systems. This awareness week will run from Monday, Sept. 17, to Friday, Sept. 21.

In Connecticut, more than 1 million people are served by an individual onsite system or small community septic system to treat their wastewater. These systems treat and dispose of wastewater and include a wide range of individual and cluster treatment options to process household and community sewage.

Chesprocott Health District

http://www.chesprocotthealthdistrict.com/communitys-economic-vitality

Tips On How To Protect Your Septic System

The following information was provided by Chesprocott health District.

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Chesprocott Health District

http://www.chesprocotthealthdistrict.com/communitys-economic-vitality
Local Media (TV and Radio)

WCAX News - Vermont

Septic Smart Week brings awareness to importance of sewer maintenance

KGMJ Radio - Washington
SepticSmart Training Courses

10 different training sessions held in 6 states

- Cobb County, Georgia
- Whatcom County, Washington
- Clallam County, Washington
- Skagit County, Washington
- Benton County Health Unit, Arkansas
- Kalamazoo County, Michigan
- California
- New York
Fun Community Outreach
Rachel Townsend
Residential Water and Sewage Program Manager, Ohio Department of Health
Ohio

- Home rule state
- Currently, 113 local health districts
A brief timeline of onsite-sewage treatment systems in Ohio

- 1974
- 1977
- January 1, 2007
- June 30, 2007
- 2010 to 2014
- January 1, 2015
2015 Rules and O & M Tracking

- Emphasis on the need for system owner education and tracking of the system owner’s operation and maintenance of systems by the local boards of health. Requirement to enroll every system (not just newly permitted) in the state.

- Local boards of health are required to work with interested stakeholders to develop a timeline and process for enrolling existing (pre-2015) systems specific to their jurisdiction.
Local Approaches to enrolling existing systems

- Adaptation of a local O & M tracking program that was in existence prior to the 2015 rules.
- Initial inventory of the system in use (type and status)
- Initial enrollment of every household not connected to sanitary sewers, initial permit condition is to either request an inventory inspection from the local health district or registered service provider.
  - Type, location, status
  - Subsequent operation permits will have terms and conditions specific to the system type
Local Approaches to enrolling existing systems

- Assessment and field verification of the system at all locations within a jurisdictional area prior to enrollment (complete inventory)
System owner education

- Local permit records for the system.
- Educational literature/manuals for that system (manufacturer’s operation and maintenance manual)
- Educational materials about on-site sewage treatment systems in general
  - SepticSmart
Information for Homeowners

July 19, 2019 | ODH

US EPA Encourages Homeowners to Maintain Septic Systems

Nearly one-fifth of American households depend on septic systems to treat their wastewater and failure to maintain a septic system can lead to backups, malfunctions and early failures that can result in costly repairs. The EPA’s SepticSmart programs educate homeowners about the proper system care and maintenance all year long.

EPA SepticSmart | The Do’s and Don’ts of your Septic System | Homeowners Guide to Septic Systems

New Homebuyer’s Guide to Septic Systems | Do’s and Don’ts of your Advanced Treatment Unit (ATU)

Proper Landscaping on and around your system

New Installation, Alteration, Repair or Replacement of a Sewage Treatment System
Farm Science Review
September 17-19, 2019

SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 19 2019

Tuesday and Wednesday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Replacing Failed Systems

• Since 2016, Ohio EPA has provided almost $50 Million in principle forgiveness loans to Local Health Districts to administer a repair and replacement for failed household sewage treatment systems for income-eligible homeowners.
  • Repair or installation of systems for households earning up to 100% of the federal poverty level are funded at 100%
  • Repair or installation of systems for households earning up to 200% of the federal poverty level are funded at 85%
  • Repair or installation of systems for households earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level are funded 50%
Since 2009, 92% of the counties in Ohio have participated in HSTS repair and replacement funding programs funded by Ohio EPA.
## Summary of HSTS Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Year</th>
<th>Soil Evaluations</th>
<th>Repairs Completed</th>
<th>Replacements Installed</th>
<th>Lateral Connections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>763</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>1,685</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>1,484</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SepticSmart Outreach

Do Your Part. Be SepticSmart!

- Shield Your Field: Direct rain and surface water away and avoid parking vehicles and planting trees on your drainfield.
- Protect It and Inspect It: A typical septic system should be serviced every five to nine years by a septic service professional.
- Pump Your Tank: Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended by a professional.
- Keep It Clean: If you use a well, test your drinking water regularly to ensure it remains clean and free of contamination.
- Don’t Overload the Commode: Don’t flush diapers, wipes or other flammable or non-launderable materials down the toilet.
- Think at the Sink: Limit use of your garbage disposal and avoid pouring fats, greases, solids, and harsh chemicals down the drain.
- Don’t Strain Your Drain: Use water efficiently and杜绝使用水基型的洗涤剂, such as your washing machine or dishwasher.

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Septic Smart and Beyond

Ray Gordon
Supervisor Residual Management
Wastewater Engineering Bureau
## NHDES – Water Division

### Subsurface Bureau
- Decentralized/Septic Systems
- Designers and Installers of Septic Systems
- Design, approval and construction of Septic Systems

### Wastewater Bureau
- Wastewater Facilities
- Wastewater Operators & Septage Haulers
- Disposal of Septage from Septic Systems
New Hampshire

Population: 1.34 million (2017)

Area: 9,350 sq miles

60% of Households on Septic Systems

80% of New Construction
Septage Generation in NH

Over 100 Million Gallons
NH Septage Disposal

Wastewater Facilities Treated 87% of the Septage
2007 Video

https://youtu.be/BExYciis2MA
Clean Water Week
Poster Contest
2014 What’s Flushable Program

What’s FLUSHABLE?

A toddler will tell you that everything is flushable... but what you think is flushable could be costing you money!

Product labels can be misleading. Some items that claim to be “flushable” can clog sewer and septic systems and can end up costing you a pretty penny.

“Flushable” does NOT mean it is SAFE for your septic system or sewer.

“Disposable” items ARE NOT flushable and should be placed in the trash.

The bottom line: ONLY

Human waste and toilet paper ARE FLUSHABLE

The DO NOT FLUSH List:

- Diapers
- Cigarettes
- Paper Towels
- Cotton Swabs
- Tampons
- Condoms
- Dental Floss
- Facial Tissues
- Wipes
A toddler will tell you that everything is flushable... but what you think is flushable could be costing you money!

“Flushable” does NOT mean it is SAFE for your septic system or sewer.

The bottom line: ONLY Human waste and toilet paper ARE FLUSHABLE
News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 20, 2015

CONTACT: Ray Gordon, (603) 271-3571

des.nh.gov

twitter.com/NHDES

NH Participates in the 3rd Annual EPA Septic Smart Week

The NH Department of Environmental Service is participating in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s third annual SepticSmart Week on Sept. 21-25. This week is designed to encourage homeowners and communities to care for and maintain their septic systems.
Lobby Display

Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart:
The Do's and Don'ts of Your Septic System

Learn these simple steps to protect your home, health, environment and property value:

Protect It and Inspect It:
- Do: Have your system inspected by a licensed contractor and have the tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years.

Think at the Sink:
- Do: Minimize or limit the use of garbage disposals.
- Do: Properly dispose of coffee grounds & food.
- Do: Dispose of grease in a container to be sure before discarding in the trash.

Don’t Overload the Commode:
- Do: Dispose of trash in the trash card.

Shield Your Field:
- Do: Consult a septic service professional to advise you of the proper distance for planting trees and shrubs, depending on your septic tank location.

Don’t Strain Your Drain:
- Don’t: Enables water use by using excessive amounts of water, i.e., two person shower, filled swimming pool, etc., and soil at the same time.

For more SepticSmart tips, visit: www.epa.gov/septicsmart

©EPA 2013-1/2/2013
SepticSmart

- 15,000 Copies
- WWTF Operators
- Septic Haulers
- Town Halls
- Designer and Installers of Septic Systems
SepticSmart

- Legislative Breakfast
- Conferences
  - Granite State Designers and Installers
  - NH Association of Septage Haulers
  - NH Water Pollution Control Association
  - NH Municipal Association
- Training Sessions
- Available to borrow
Discover Wild NH Day – April

Mark your calendar for SepticSmart Week: September 17-21, 2018! We will share tips and information on the proper care and maintenance of septic systems throughout next week. Stay tuned here and follow.
It's Septic Smart Week, and to start it off let's discuss how your septic system works! How do you know you have a septic system? How do you find it? What goes in a septic system and what happens to it? This New Homebuyer's Guide to Septic Systems, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is a great resource for all things septic. https://www.epa.gov/.../170803-homebuyers Septic Guidebrochure...
Septic Sam Cutout 2018

- Two Life Size Cutout of Septic Awareness Man (SAM)

- Available for NH Stakeholders to borrow
Get Pumped NH 2019

• Sam is helping get the word out!
• Partner with NH Association of Septage Haulers
• New Web Site – GetPumpumpedNH.com
• New Brochure
• Rebate Program
GET PUMPED! NEW HAMPSHIRE
Don’t wait for a failure to schedule a septic system pumpout
Looking Back

Lessons Learned

• Teachers Don’t like Condoms On Our Brochure

• $10 Rebate? – Not Enough

• No Matter What you do – Everyone has an opinion

• Durability Matters

Preview it, review it again and let more people

Advice

• Provide material for various age groups

• Keep Mixing things up

• Keep it fresh

• Have something new each year

• Once you have a toolbox – You can reuse it

• Stakeholders will borrow education material and will deliver your message
Where do we go from here?

Improve our FOG Education Program

Continue Using Existing Tool Box

Continue Expanding Tool Box

More promotion with stakeholders

Promote Successes and Secure Budgets

Look for Educational Partnerships
Contact Information

Ray Gordon, Administrator
Residual Management Section
NHDES, Wastewater Engineering Bureau
(603) 271-3571 – Ray.Gordon@des.nh.gov
Amanda Lahners, REHS/RS
Environmental Health and Food Supervisor, La Porte County Health Department, Indiana
La Porte County

613 sq. Miles
Population: 111,000

Approximately 23,000 onsite septic systems for residential housing units =47% of homes is the county.
La Porte Maps
Mount Baldy, Indiana Dunes National Park
La Porte County, IN
La Porte Beachfront
Beachfront Property
Lake Michigan Watershed

Many Lake Michigan watershed and shoreline communities rely wholly or partially on septic systems for their wastewater treatment needs. Watershed plans for the Coastal tributaries identify septic systems as a likely source of e-coli pollution to the waterways.
The Northwest Indiana Septic System Coordination Work Group

The NW Indiana SSC Work Group comprised of federal, state, and local governments/agencies, not-for-profit groups, universities and interested individuals has been meeting since early 2013 to develop collaborative plans and implementation strategies to address the potential impacts of failing septic systems on local water quality and public health. This group meets on a bi-monthly basis.

IDEM
USEPA
Indiana State Dept. of Health
County Health Depts.
NIRPC
Urban Waters Federal Partnership
Coastal MS4s

Coastal SWCDs
Save the Dunes
Sea Grant
Coastal Communities
Septic System Owners
Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program
Purdue University NW (Calumet Campus)

The Indiana DNR Lake Michigan Coastal Program provides staffing and coordination assistance for the Work Group as part of the Indiana Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.
Why Now?

- Operating Permits-2013
- Installers required to be IOWPA certified and bonded-2014
- Water Well Ordinance-2015
- IOWPA Certified Inspector Course
### Section 4 - Notes

**D-Box seems to be located**

- on the edge of the driveway we were unable to locate
do to the landscape and amount of buried brick and broken concrete and clay tile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D-Box has been pumped recently</th>
<th>Home has been vacant for a long period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D-box is not watertight</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Is the level of the effluent in the distribution box above the invert of the outlet pipe?
- Is there evidence of previous high water event in the distribution box?
- Are there solids in the distribution box?
- Does the distribution box appear to be watertight?
- Is there evidence of corrosion or concrete deterioration in the distribution box?
- Is there evidence of cracking or warping of the distribution box?
- Is the distribution box lid cracked, broken, missing or otherwise removed?
- Is there evidence of water infiltration into the distribution box?
- Is there a soil absorption field present?
- Does all effluent discharge to the soil absorption field?
- Tank to tile Discharging sewer pipe Grey water discharge
- Other, describe

- Is there any evidence of effluent discharge from the soil absorption field?
- Is there any vegetation over the soil absorption field?
- Grass Weeds Trees Other
- Is there a minimum of 1/2" of soil cover over the soil absorption field?
- Is the soil cover appropriately composed to promote surface water runoff to the SAT?
- Does surface water, roof drains or sump pump discharge drain onto the SAT area?
- Are there observation wells/pits installed in the soil absorption field?
- If yes, is water observed in the observation wells/pits?
- Are the caps on the observation wells/cracked, broken or missing?
- Have there been any modifications to the soil absorption field due to landscaping?

**Section 4b - Notes**

- Dry wells appear to be under the asphalt driveway

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other, describe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Section 6d - Notes**

- The length of the installed trenches is the same as indicated on the installation plan.

- Has any soil cover or vegetation, where applicable, been removed?

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**Section 6e - Notes**

- Distribution Box Location (more than 1, record for all boxes)
- If there is more than 1 distribution box installed in the system, how many?

- Distribution Box Material: Concrete Other (specify)

- Is there a raised, 90° elbow or sanitary tee in place in the invert?

- If there is an elbow in the distribution box, is there a weep hole on the top of the elbow?

- Is the flow equally distributed to all outlets of the box?

- Are there flow equalization devices installed on the outlets of the box?

- Is the effluent level in the distribution box appropriate (at the invert of the outlet)?

- Is the effluent level in the distribution box below the invert of the outlet? If yes, what reason?
What is a Property Transfer?

Property Transfer: The conveyance of an interest in a property by any of the following:

• A deed or other instrument of conveyance of fee title to property
• A lease whose term, if all options were exercised, would be more than 40 years
• A collateral assignment of a beneficial interest in a land trust
• An installment contract for the sale of a property
The Ordinance

• Requires all septic systems, both residential and commercial, to be inspected prior to the transfer of the property by an IOWPA certified inspector
• Requires all drinking water wells, both residential and commercial, to be tested for coliform bacteria and have a certified nitrate test.
WHY?

• Inform prospective buyers
• Drinking Water Quality
• Status of On-site Sewage System
• Find undocumented/non-systems
• Find failed/failing systems
Box was cleaned out after this pic was taken.
These inspections and test reduce the likelihood that a buyer will encounter large and unexpected costs soon after they purchase a property. A new septic system may cost $5000-$15000 or more, water well supply $4000 or more, and a drinking water treatment system $500.

I further agree to submit a septic inspection to the Health Department within 45 days after closing for bank owned, HUD, and tax/sheriff properties. (Also for water well)
Outreach

- Initial outreach to the realty association
  - LPCAR
  - Ordinance Committee
  - Individual Realty Agencies
  - Title companies
  - Conferences, meetings
Proclamation

WHEREAS, proper septic system use and routine care are vital to protecting public health, preserving our highly valued groundwater, lakes, streams and waterways, and avoiding costly repairs that can result from neglect; and

WHEREAS, nearly 50% of septic systems in La Porte County treat wastewater from homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, wastewater professionals of La Porte County use their expertise in the design, installation, maintenance and regulation of septic systems in La Porte County; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s SepticSmart program used by La Porte County health officials does educate homeowners about the need for proper septic system use and routine maintenance; and

WHEREAS, residents and the environment of La Porte County benefit from properly designed, installed, operated, and maintained septic systems;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Dr. Sandra Deasy, Health Officer of La Porte County, do hereby proclaim the week of September 16-20, 2019 as

SepticSmart Week

in La Porte County, IN, and I urge all people to join me in this special observance.

Signed this September 10, 2019,

S. Deasy

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency
Questions?

Zach Lowenstein, lowenstein.zachary@epa.gov