

Vanderburgh County Health Department

Onsite Sewage Disposal System Policy

Onsite sewage disposal systems (OSDS) treat effluent from residential and commercial structures by capturing solid waste in an underground chamber and allowing liquid waste to percolate through the soil, where harmful disease causing microorganisms are removed. Residential Onsite Sewage Systems Rule 410 IAC 6-8.3, which is administered by the local boards of health through their health officer and his or her authorized representatives, requires the owner or their agent to obtain a permit signed by the health officer prior to OSDS construction.

410 IAC 6-8.3-53 Construction permits

Sec. 53. (a) For any dwelling or place of residence that will not be connected to a sanitary sewerage system, the owner or agent of the owner shall obtain a written construction permit, signed by the health officer, for construction of a residential onsite sewage system prior to the:

- (1) start of construction of a residence;
- (2) placement of a manufactured home, modular home, or mobile home;
- (3) construction or placement of a residential outbuilding that will include plumbing, or the addition of plumbing to an existing residential outbuilding;
- (4) replacement of any dwelling, place of residence, or residential outbuilding that includes plumbing;
- (5) reconstruction of any dwelling, place of residence, or residential outbuilding that includes plumbing;
- (6) expansion or remodeling of a residence that may increase the number of bedrooms or the DDF;
- (7) addition to, alteration of, replacement of, or repair of an existing residential onsite sewage system; or
- (8) installation of an onsite sewage system for an existing residence that did not previously have a residential onsite sewage system as defined in section 32 of this rule.

The Health Officer will make a good faith effort to issue an OSDS permit for any approved building site in the area of his or her jurisdiction. It shall be the responsibility of the owner or their agent to provide the Health Officer with an onsite sewage system design that complies with state and local rules in order to obtain such an OSDS permit. The Health Officer and his or her authorized representatives will provide technical support in the creation of this design.

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Sec. 53. (e) When site limitations and soil information for the site have been determined, the owner is responsible for the residential onsite sewage system design that:

- (1) addresses the demands of the site in accordance with this rule; and
 - (2) will meet local health department approval.
- (f) The local health department may require scale drawings of the site and residential onsite sewage system as part of the application process.

The Health Officer may also deny an application for an OSDS permit under Section 55 of the rule.

410 IAC 6-8.3-55 Violations; permit denial and revocation

Sec. 55. (e) The health officer may deny an application for a construction or operating permit, or may revoke a permit previously issued, for reasons including, but not limited to, any of the following:

- (1) An onsite sewage system design does not meet the minimum requirements of this rule or local sewage ordinances, or both.
- (2) Failure to comply with any provisions of this rule or local sewage ordinances, or both.
- (3) Failure to comply with limitations, terms, or conditions of a permit that has been issued.
- (4) Failure to disclose all the facts relevant to the construction and use of an onsite sewage system.
- (5) Misrepresentation.
- (6) Any change relating to the design, construction, or use of the onsite sewage system not approved, in writing, by the local health department.

Approval by any other agency, commission or department of a building site does not constitute approval by the Health Officer nor compel the issuance of an OSDS permit for that site. OSDS permits for approved building sites will be issued or denied on a case by case basis.

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Sec. 53. (c) The approval of a site by the local plan commission or the county recorder does not constitute approval by the local health officer.

Therefore after review by the Indiana State Department of Health and the Vanderburgh County Board of Health this policy concerning OSDS has been adopted.