

SEPTIC MATTERS

Flathead County's Newsletter for Septic Installers



Dec. 2023

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IMPORTANT: Septic Installers License Renewals are due by **December 31, 2023** for 2024. Failure to Renew will require you to take the Licensed Installer test again (\$120).

- Please contact Environmental Health Services at: ehhealth@flathead.mt.gov or (406) 751-8130 to obtain license copies.

Friendly Reminders...

1. Thank you for your continued cooperation related to having the **septic permit and your license present at the time of inspection**. Please continue to do so as this is now our policy. Failure to do so will result in a re-inspection fee(\$100). Photos/screenshots of licenses and permits saved on phones are encouraged.
2. It is our expectation and requirement **that no component related to installation be covered prior to final inspection**. If site conditions, or construction needs, require alterations to a system or burial of any system components prior to the final inspection, please contact Environmental Health or the sanitarian who issued the permit before making any changes. At such point we will advise as to picture requirements.
3. We have continued to see instances of **Permits after the fact**. Please confirm that the permit has been paid for before starting installation regardless of what the owner, or anyone else, states (\$1500 fee).
4. If grading has occurred on the proposed drain field site please keep in mind that no more than 12" of topsoil removal is allowed. The amount removed will be subtracted from the max depth of the trenches. This is not recommended as it would pose a problem with shallow trenches, but we understand most of these situations are out of your control. **Please remember that drain fields must be installed in undisturbed, natural soil. Fill cannot be placed in the drain field area before excavating.**
5. **Ground Water Monitoring** season is coming up in March. The sooner pipes are installed and applications submitted, the better.
6. Please have all driveways labeled with the address of the property if not already present.

Education plays a key role in Public Health. Our goal is to send out quarterly information to our licensed installers with helpful reminders and updates. If there is a particular topic that you are interested in, please email ehhealth@flathead.mt.gov with your suggestion.