



## Vision:

Healthy people living in healthy communities

## Mission:

To improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians by protecting and promoting the health of the public and the environment

## Contact Us!



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[scdhec.gov/septic](http://scdhec.gov/septic)



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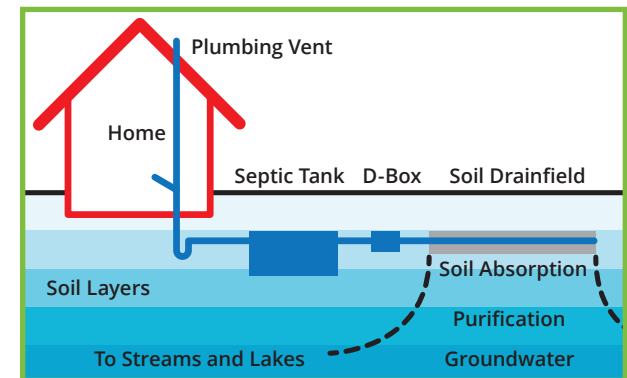
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CR-012669 5/20



S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control

## Bureau of Environmental Health Services Onsite Wastewater



The onsite wastewater program is responsible for providing regulatory oversight of onsite wastewater systems as well as the licensing of onsite wastewater contractors.

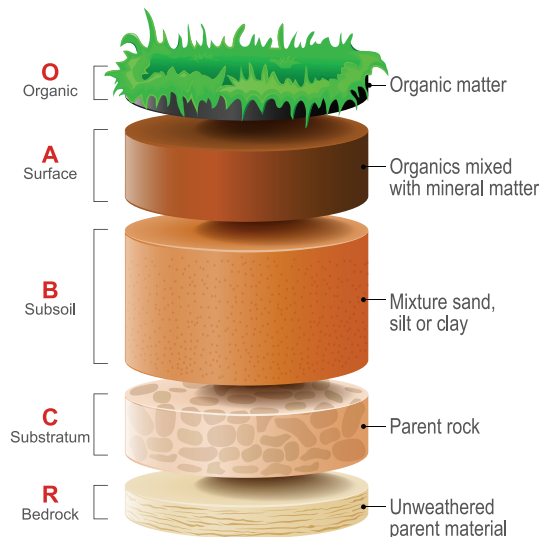
# What is an Onsite Wastewater System?

An onsite wastewater system, or septic tank system, consists of a tank(s) and a drainfield. It is designed to treat and dispose of domestic wastewater through a combination of natural processes.

## What We Do:

- Review individual sites for the suitability of an onsite wastewater system
- Issue permits to construct/approvals to operate for those systems
- Review applications and as-built plans prepared by Professional Soil Classifiers and Professional Engineers
- License and regulate onsite wastewater installers, pumpers/haulers, and manufacturers
- Investigate complaints regarding onsite wastewater system malfunctions

## SOIL LAYERS



## Soil is the Most Important Factor!

Before a permit to construct can be issued for a new onsite wastewater system, a site evaluation must occur. During a site evaluation, a DHEC inspector will take a minimum of three (3) soil samples using a soil auger in the proposed onsite wastewater system area. The inspector will analyze the soil samples to determine:

- **Soil Color:** helps to identify the water table
  - Gray color = Water table = Saturation = Poor treatment of wastewater
  - Trench bottom must have a vertical separation of at least six (6) inches from the water table
- **Soil Texture:** helps to determine LTAR
  - Long Term Acceptance Rate (LTAR): the rate at which an onsite wastewater system can continue to accept effluent without hydraulic failure occurring
  - LTAR is broken down into classes
    - Class I: 1.0 – 0.9
    - Class II: 0.8 – 0.7
    - Class III: 0.6 – 0.5
    - Class IV: 0.4 – 0.1
  - Determined by using the hand texture method

## Other Factors that Influence the Issuance of an Onsite Wastewater Permit

- Slope
- Restrictive Horizon
- Lot Size

## Onsite Wastewater System Design

Once a site evaluation has been conducted and it is determined a permit can be issued, the appropriate system standard within R. 61-56 (Onsite Wastewater Systems) is identified and a permit to construct is issued. Once the system has been installed, DHEC will issue an Approval to Operate.

## Licensing of Onsite Wastewater Contractors

- **Installer:** pass a licensing exam with 80% or above and pay a licensing fee
- **Pumper/Hauler:** obtain permission from an approved dumping facility and pay a licensing fee
- **Master Contractor:** pay an application fee, pass a licensing exam with 80% or above, have three years of experience installing onsite waster systems (five years for out of state), be bonded and insured, obtain six continuing education units (CEUs) yearly, and pay a licensing fee
- **Septic Tank Manufacturer:** submit tank design(s) and comply with South Carolina Minimum Design Standards for Tank Construction
- **Product Manufacturer:** submit copies of testing, research, and monitoring data that has been conducted in relation to the product

