

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality



Best Management Practices for Animal Kennel

On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems



If you take care of your kennel's septic system, you can expect it to perform for you. The following are best management practices (BMPs) for protecting the system against harm. Following these practices can help assure that your on-site disposal system will work properly for many years. Maintaining and operating your system as intended can prevent water pollution and contribute to good health for your family and community. A failing system is a nuisance no one wants and is a public health hazard to you and your neighbors.

1. **Exclude rainwater from the system.** Cover the runs. Be sure that roof drains are directed away from the system. Rainwater will flood your drainfield causing premature failure.

2. **Use sanitizers/ disinfectants correctly.** Follow the labeled instructions, using the minimum amount needed. As an example, use one ounce of household bleach per gallon of water. We recommend using products such as bleach that degrade over time to harmless byproducts. The septic system, after all, depends on bacterial digestion of sewage. The overuse or improper use of sanitizers will kill beneficial bacteria within your septic system.

3. **Don't turn solid waste into liquid waste.** The following practices are necessary to maintain your system in a proper operating manner and not burden it with "high strength" waste.
 - a. When they poop--you scoop. Feces must be dry-removed, placed in a plastic bag, and placed in a dumpster or other solid waste container. If garbage service is impractical or unavailable, contact DEQ regarding other options. Burial of fecal material onsite is not an option.

 - b. If you groom--vacuum. Hair and other materials from washing, grooming, etc., must be collected and disposed of as solid waste.

 - c. If you medicate--anticipate--medicines kill disease organisms, and they can also kill septic tank bacteria. Discard old medicines to the trash.

 - d. Food waste---is solid waste. Put it into the dumpster.

BMPs for Animal Kennel On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems, cont'd

4. **Maintenance Chores:**

The following schedule is essential to give the system a long life:

Daily:

- a. Floor drains, grates: check and clean as needed.
- b. Hair screen(s): check and clean as needed.

Monthly:

- a. Effluent Filter: check and clean as needed.

Every six months:

- a. Septic tank: check and pump when floating solids and sediment exceed 35% of tank volume.
- b. If your system uses an effluent pump, check the screened vault, clean as necessary.
- c. If you have a pressurized drainfield, flush the laterals every six months.

6. **Final Don'ts.**

- ◆ Don't waste water. (Minimize the amount of water usage during spray down of run surfaces.)
- ◆ Don't install or use a garbage grinder sink disposal.
- ◆ Don't damage your tank or drainfield by building or driving on them, etc.
- ◆ Septic Tank additives are not recommended.

Remember...

You are limited to the number of animals or runs that is noted on your construction-installation permit. Any increase beyond that number requires authorization from the DEQ and may require an alteration to the system. Contact your local DEQ representative before adding animals.

These practices are necessary for the best and continued operation of your kennel wastewater system without being on an ongoing operational (WPCF) permit. If you don't take care of it, the system may fail prematurely, resulting in the possibility of an expensive repair, and a WPCF permit.

THESE BMPs ARE CONDITIONS OF YOUR PERMIT AND REMAIN AS REQUIREMENTS FOR AS LONG AS YOUR SYSTEM IS IN USE, (OAR 340-71-160 (9)).

For further information or questions please contact Benton County Environmental Health, 541-766-6841.