



Contra Costa Environmental Health
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REQUIREMENTS FOR SEPTIC TANK-CHEMICAL TOILET CLEANERS

Any person or firm engaged in the business of cleaning septic tanks, sewage holding tanks, on-site wastewater treatment systems, pit privies, cesspools or seepage pits, or providing or cleaning chemical toilets must operate under permit from Contra Costa Environmental Health. Each pumper truck must have its own permit. A permit from another county is not valid in Contra Costa County. Permits expire at the end of each calendar year. This handout is intended as a general overview of requirements pertaining to such activity but is not intended as a substitute for familiarity with applicable laws and regulations.

Applications

An application form must be completed for each vehicle used for pumping or cleaning activities. Each application must be accompanied by the permit fee. Upon submittal of application and fee, Contra Costa Environmental Health will conduct an inspection of the vehicle. The business is required to file with this office a certified weight slip for each pumper truck that shows the weight of the vehicle. A permit to operate will be issued after all required information is provided, the pumper truck passes an inspection, and the driver passes an examination. Prominently post the permit sticker on the upper left rear of the vehicle.

Examination

At the time of the pumper truck inspection, the driver must take and pass a written examination administered by the health officer under Health and Safety Code section 117420 as a condition of issuance of registration. The examination will test his/her knowledge of septic tank/chemical toilet operations. A passing score of 70% is required.

Change of Address

Any permittee changing an address must notify this office in writing within 2 days of such change. A permittee must submit information regarding any changes in DMV license plates or equipment to this office at the time these changes are made.

Reporting of Pumping Activity

No later than the tenth day of each month, a septic tank-chemical toilet cleaner shall submit a written report to the health officer in a form approved by the health officer that describes all pumping and cleaning operations conducted in the county in the previous month.

Suspension or Revocation of Permits

Any permit issued may be suspended or revoked by Contra Costa Environmental Health if regulations are not followed or requirements not met.

Disposal Sites

Sewage collected by a septic tank-chemical toilet cleaner must be disposed of only at a public facility that provides wastewater collection and treatment services.

NOTE: Sewage wastes can transmit diseases to humans. Wastes must not be disposed of in water courses, streams, storm drains, onto the ground surface, roadsides, near wells, on lawns, gardens, crops, or in floodplains. Any spilled wastes must be immediately cleaned up. Contra Costa Environmental Health reserves the right to require special disposal conditions for a permittee if problems should arise from his or her operation. Disposal at sites other than those approved by Contra Costa Environmental Health is a violation of Sections 25000-25010 of the California Health and Safety Code.

Pumper Truck Requirements

Sewage collection tanks on vehicles used to collect or transport sewage must be constructed of metal, watertight, and designed to prevent spillage of the contents. A means to accurately measure the volume of the contents in the tank must be provided.

Pumps on vehicles used to collect or transport sewage must be designed to prevent leakage.

A leak-proof gate valve must be provided on the tank for the collection or discharge of the tank contents. The gate valve must have a leak-proof screw plug or screw cap that must be installed when the valve is not being used. The plug or cap must be chained at all times.

Pipes and hoses on vehicles used to collect or transport sewage must be designed to prevent leakage and be of a sufficient length to extend fully into, and maximize the removal of the contents of, the septic tank, sewage holding tank, onsite wastewater treatment system, cesspool, privy pit or vault, seepage pit or chemical toilet being cleaned.

- All equipment utilized by a septic tank-chemical toilet cleaner in the course of collecting or transporting sewage must be made of durable and easily cleanable materials.
- Vehicle identification markings must:
 - a. Be applied to both sidewalls of the vehicle;
 - b. Be in sharp contrast to the background;
 - c. Be of such size as to be readily visible during daylight hours from a distance of 50 feet; and
 - d. Include the following information:
 - (1) The name and address of the permitted septic tank-chemical toilet tank cleaner; and
 - (2) The capacity of the sewage collection tank, in gallons.
- The permit decal required under Section 420-6.1206 of the Ordinance must be prominently displayed on the rear of the vehicle.

Pumping and Cleaning Operations

- Each compartment of a septic tank must be pumped whenever it is opened for cleaning. If problems are noted with the septic system, please inform the property owner that permits are required to repair or

replace any portion of a septic system.

- Cleaning operations must be conducted in a manner that will not endanger human health or the environment. A septic tank-chemical toilet cleaner must use all reasonable means to prevent the spillage of sewage. Any spilled sewage must immediately be removed and properly disposed of, and the area disinfected.

Chemical Toilet Requirements

- Toilet facilities must be designed, constructed and maintained to prevent the access of flies or vermin to the wastes.
- The interior surfaces of a chemical toilet must be durable, non-absorbent, smooth and easily cleanable.
- A chemical toilet must be equipped with a tank upon which is mounted a toilet seat that is durable, non-absorbent, smooth and easily cleanable.
- A chemical toilet tank must have a capacity of at least 40 gallons. The tank must be constructed of durable easily cleanable material, leak proof and designed to prevent spillage.
- Chemical toilets must be ventilated and equipped with a self-closing door that is lockable from the inside.
- Effective odor control and solid-liquefying chemicals must be used in the chemical toilet holding tank at all times that the chemical toilet is available for use.
- Disposal of contents of chemical toilets must be into an approved disposal site.
- Chemical toilets must be kept clean and sanitary
- The name of the permitted septic tank-chemical toilet cleaner and the unit number must be applied to each chemical toilet so that it is clearly visible and in lettering at least 3-inches in height