



Building ~ Zoning ~ Environmental Office
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To: All Septic Contractors and Homeowners installing septic systems in Muscatine County

From: Eric S. Furnas, Muscatine County Building, Zoning & Environmental Office

RE: New Permitting & Inspection Guidelines for Septic Systems

Due to recent reoccurring issues with the permitting and inspection of new septic systems the following procedures will be strictly enforced from this point forward.

Effective immediately, the Muscatine County Building, Zoning & Environmental Office will require the following prior to any new septic permit being issued:

1. Contractor or homeowner must have a percolation test performed by a person(s) approved in Muscatine County. As always, the percolation test holes need to be portrayed on a map of the property. All existing wells (including neighboring wells) and property lines must be accounted for on the map.
2. Once the percolation test results are available to our office, a permit may be applied for. At the time of the application, the type of system proposed must be identified based on the percolation rate and a site plan of the proposed system submitted. This site plan must include the location of the tank, the secondary treatment system (drain field or other filtering system) as well as any applicable sampling ports, pump pits or discharge lines.
3. If an NPDES permit is required, the property owner must complete and sign the application for NPDES coverage prior to any permit being issued.
4. If any part of the system is located on property owned by another party or on another parcel, a copy of the recorded easement must be submitted to our office prior to a permit being issued. If any part of the system extends into or across any State or County right-of-way, an alteration of right-of-way permit must be obtained from the appropriate authority and provided to our office prior to a septic permit being issued.

5. All new septic systems will be sub-surface treatment systems unless approved by the Environmental Office. If the proposed system requires maintenance, a signed service contract between the property owner and a service provider approved by the manufacturer must be submitted prior to the permit being issued.
6. No work of any kind may begin prior to a permit being issued. (this does not include a percolation test being performed by an approved agent)

Once a permit has been issued the following procedures must be adhered to:

1. All work completed on the septic system must be as designed and approved on the permit. Any alteration of the system requires prior approval of the Muscatine County Building, Zoning & Environmental Office.
2. Requests for final inspection must be made at least 24 hours in advance and all portions of the system must be un-covered and visible to the inspector at inspection time. For conventional systems, final inspection of the system should occur when the distribution lines are completely installed and bedded with gravel (when applicable) but before any fill is placed on top of any portion of the system. Sand Filter systems shall be inspected once all distribution pipes are installed and bedded with gravel and the discharge line is completed. For alternative treatment units, please contact our office to ascertain when the final inspection will be scheduled.
3. All portions of the sanitary plumbing system must be routed to the septic tank if a new system is being installed. Roof and foundation drain lines are prohibited from draining into the system.
4. At final inspection, a drawn diagram portraying all portions of the systems will be provided to the inspector. A final inspection will not be conducted if a map is not made available at that time. The map of the system shall include measurements between all pertinent portions of the system including the space from home to tank, tank to distribution box and the length of each drain line. For sand filters, the dimension of the entire filter shall be portrayed, as well as the length to the final discharge point. Any sampling ports, clean-outs or lift stations shall also be portrayed on the diagram. All points must be visible for GPS recording.

If you have any questions, please contact our office and we would be glad to assist you.

Sincerely,



Eric S. Furnas
Planning & Zoning Administrator