

CODE AND GUIDE FOR SEWAGE SYSTEMS

Historical (Public Health Act, Schedule B: Environmental Protection Act, Sewage Systems Regulations. Ontario Building Code Act and Regulation 403/97 Made Under The O.B.C.):

Health Departments have been responsible for the overseeing of the installation of sewage systems since the early 1900's. With the enacting of the first Public Health Act of Ontario, health departments were mandated with investigating sewage related complaints and in establishing guidelines for the installation of sewage systems. Schedule B under the Public Health Act provided each municipality and Health Departments the powers to enforce the Act.

Responsibilities for the overseeing of the Installation of Sewage Systems was transferred to the newly created Ministry of the Environment in the early 1970's. The Environmental Protection Act and the application of its Sewage Systems Regulations was delegated to the Health Units under agreements signed between the Crown and the local Board of the Health Units, or in some cases, the Regional Municipalities.

In 1997, responsibility for the overseeing of the installation of sewage Systems was transferred to The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Under the Building Code Act, Regulation 403/97 specifically listed the Boards of Health and Conservation Authorities that would be enforcing the provisions of the Act in territories without municipal organisation or where municipalities would not be involved in the application of the Act. The Porcupine Health Unit Board was one of the designated Boards.

Classes of Sewage Systems:

The Ontario Building Code designates five classes of sanitary sewage of Sewage disposal.

- Class 1: A chemical toilet, an incineration toilet, a recirculating toilet, a self-contained portable toilet, and all forms of privy including a portable privy, an earth pit privy, a pail privy, a vault privy, and a composting toilet system, all of which can receive only human waste.
- Class 2 A greywater system, which can receive only greywater waste
- Class 3 A cesspool, which can receive waste only from a Class 1 System
- Class 4 A leaching bed system, which can accept both human body waste and greywater waste.
- Class 5 A sanitary sewage system with an on-site holding tank for sanitary sewage produced on-site, prior to removal by a haulage service provider; it can accept both human body waste and greywater .

Building Permit Required:

A building permit must be obtained from the Health Unit before any installation, extension, or alteration of a sanitary sewage system can take place. Permit applications are typically associated with:

- new construction on a vacant lot
- alteration or additions to an existing building
- construction of a new system for an existing building
- corrective work or repairs to an existing system
- upgrade of an existing system

The Health Unit provides a permit application package to the property owner. A typical application package contains an information package with sewage system worksheets, a property description and applicant information sheet, a site description, calculations and intended system type sheet, a site plan and applicant or agent signature sheet, a completion notice and a sewage system fee schedule.

Obtaining Building Permits:

Anyone requiring a building permit can contact any of the Porcupine Health Unit offices in person or can telephone our offices and request an application be sent to them through the mail.

Plan Submission Requirements:

Once the application has been filled out, the calculations on the worksheets have been transferred to page 2 of the application forms, and the site plan information sheet has been completed and submitted to the Health Unit, an Inspector of the Unit will carry out a Site Inspection and will review the calculations.

Site Inspection:

If all the information is correct and the site is suitable for the installation of the intended sewage disposal system, a Building Permit will be issued.

Final Inspection:

Homeowners can install their own Sewage Systems or may hire a licensed contractor to carry out or supervise the installation of their system. Only qualified and licensed installers can carry out this work. The Health Unit's Completion Notice/Readiness for Use of a System form should be used to notify the Inspector at least 10 days in advance of the intended use date of the sewage system. All of the components of the sewage system must be available and visible for the inspector's final inspection. A "Permission for Use" Certificate will be issued to the homeowner by the inspector once the system has been approved

Fee Schedule:

The Board of Health of the Porcupine Health Unit has established a Sewage Systems Fee Schedule for Permits to install systems and for related services. (See Chart)

Accessing Records:

The Porcupine Health Unit has maintained records of Sewage Systems treating less than 10,000 litres of sewage per day that were installed in the areas serviced by the Health Unit. These files contain information on systems installed in the 1960's to this date and the information contained is available for copies of records or for file searches. There are fees applicable for providing this information.