

DESIGN REQUIRED FOR PRIVATE SEWAGE SYSTEMS

A comprehensive design of a private sewage system must be provided in support of a private sewage permit application.

The requirements to provide detail on the design of a private sewage system is set out in the Permit Regulation and in the Private Sewage System Standard of Practice that are adopted under the Safety Codes Act. The Uniform Quality Management Plan (QMP), established by the Safety Codes Council, regarding the administration of the regulations by an accredited municipality also includes requirements for design information in support of a permit application for a private sewage system. Inspection agencies operating in areas of the province under the responsibility of Alberta Municipal Affairs have the same requirements. The Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice sets out that required design considerations that apply to the specific site be included in a design document.

To assist the private sewage systems industry in meeting the requirements to provide a suitable design, example design documents have been developed and are available for use by persons in the industry. These available design examples relate to treatment mounds, treatment fields, open discharge system and holding tank systems.

These example designs can be accessed and downloaded by contractors for review and also used as a general template. They are online at: http://municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/CP_PSDS_DesignToolsAndForms.cfm. The example documents can also be requested in printed form if you have no internet access.

The system design also needs to be provided to the owner of the system as the design can provide valuable and needed information for the owner for many years following the initial installation. Contractors should advise an owner to keep the designs as they can have significant value in the future regarding servicing of the system or supporting the compliance of their private sewage system at the time of selling their property.