

Following the Trail of Title V

As of 1995 every town in the State of Massachusetts is required to abide by the rules and regulations spelled out in the government document now referred to as Title V. The "Title V" regulation originates from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and is designed to protect the environment, especially drinking water, from sewage systems.

The quest is for a Certificate of Compliance. The journey along the way involves plans, inspections and fees. This trail usually begins when a home is being sold or their system is in failure or a piece of land is being prepared for the building of a home.

In the case of an existing septic system, it needs to be inspected by a permitted Title V inspector to determine if it passes. The results vary depending on numerous factors. Please speak to someone in the Board of Health Office about your existing system if you have questions.

When a new system is being installed:

1. Perc test application filled out & fee paid.

- a. The ability of the soil to percolate, or allow liquids to pass through, is determined by a licensed soil evaluator.
- b. This person also determines the best locations for the perc tests.
- c. The perc needs to be witnessed by the town's health agent.
- d. If the health agent is unavailable, a fee will be paid for a consultant to witness the perc test.
- e. The Water Department marks the water line and Dig Safe is called and a trench permit is issued.

2. Design Engineer: P. E. (Professional Engineer) or a R.S. (Registered Sanitarian) draws up plans for septic systems based on:

- a. number of bedrooms
- b. perc rate
- c. Other variables such as topography, wetlands and wells

3. Review Engineer:

- a. Reviews the proposed design plan, making sure that it meets Title V requirements and the soil evaluation information.
- d. Review letter is sent back to the Board of Health (BOH)
- e. There is a fee to cover the cost of this review.

4. BOH reviews above information for approval

5. Licensed installer (a list of licensed installers is in the Board of Health office)

- a. Signs Disposal Works Permit (permit to install septic system).
- b. A fee is paid for this permit by the owner or the installer pays it and passes on the cost to the owner.
- c. Takes permit and copy of approved plans.
- d. Has to have both permit and approved plan on site at all times during construction.

6. Hole for leaching area is dug.

- a. Must be in the correct area, according to the plan.
- b. Must reveal the expected soil, according to the perc test. (If not, dig deeper or remove and replace)
- c. Replaced soil must be double washed sand.
- d. The bottom hole is inspected by the Board of Health's agent.
- e. If agent is unavailable, there is a fee for a consultant to do this.

7. Final Inspection

- a. Health Agent inspects system when completed.
- b. Design engineer inspects installed system and checks elevations.
- c. Design engineer sends three copies of "As-Built" plans to BOH office.
- d. Installed, uncovered system is inspected by the health agent. (If the health agent is unavailable, there will be a fee for a consultant to do this.)
 - i. Installer signs all three "As-Built's".
 - ii. Health agent signs all three "As-Built's".
- f. One copy of signed "As-Built" plan goes to homeowner.
- g. One copy of signed "As-Built" plan goes to installer.
- h. One copy of signed "As-Built" plan goes to BOH office.

8. Certificate of Compliance is signed by the Health Agent or Board of Health after the As-Built has been examined and approved.