

# COMMON ERRORS FOUND IN SELF INSTALLED SEPTIC SYSTEMS

## September 2020



1. Be sure to read and understand the Conditions of Approval on your permit. If you have any questions, call Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) for clarification.
2. The round septic tank lids must be removed from their openings so that the tank interior and tank baffles can be inspected. This must be done prior to the inspector's arrival unless you plan to meet the inspector onsite.
3. Don't over excavate the drain field depth. The drain field cannot be any deeper along any of its length than stated on the permit. If so, this can result in a denial of septic installation.
4. Don't over excavate the drain field width. The drain field trench width on a gravelless trench system must be three (3) feet wide. If the trench is too wide, you will lose the 25% reduction for a gravelless system and will have to install the full gravel drain field square footage requirement that is listed on your permit.
5. Are water lines running above or below the septic tank effluent lines? Call first if that will be the case.
6. Don't bury the septic tank prior to inspection. The septic tank must be able to be viewed on all 4 sides all the way to the bottom of the tank. This is in order to verify the tank is properly bedded and to verify tank condition.
7. Don't modify the septic tank in any way. No additional holes may be made in any septic tank. No additional inlet/outlet holes may be created. Only use the ones provided.
8. If installing a gravel type drain field, the gravel must be from an approved source. Be sure to call EIPH to verify the source.
9. When using the gravelless domes for the drain field, you must insert the effluent line from the septic tank into the upper hole cutouts on the end caps of the domes. If the most bottom hole cutout is used, you will lose the 25% reduction given for installing the gravelless system. You must then install the gravel amount of drain field square footage listed on your permit.
10. If the top of the septic tank is to be 24" or more below grade, you must install risers on both lids to within 18" of final grade.
11. When installing a distribution box be sure to install the speed levelers inside the box. Be sure to ask for the levelers when you buy the box at your distributor.
12. If you are using a "T" rather than a distribution box, be sure the "T" is manufactured so that it will provide equal distribution to each trench. Sweeping style "Tees" are not permitted.
13. Don't forget that the effluent line from the home to the septic tank is under a different jurisdiction than EIPH. That section of pipe must be permitted and inspected by the Division of Building Safety Plumbing Bureau. Call them in order to set up the inspection prior to burial.