



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Idaho Public Health Districts

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March 2014

Subsurface Sewage Disposal

The State of Idaho utilizes a unique approach to subsurface sewage disposal, or septic systems as they are more commonly called. For more than 40 years in Idaho, septic system oversight has been a collaboration between the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) and the seven public health districts. This allows for a more consistent statewide methodology and permitting process, while at the same time ensuring that each parcel can be evaluated by a local environmental health specialist (EHS) who knows the area and can properly account for the differences which make each property unique.



IDEQ and Public Health

In Idaho, IDEQ is tasked with developing and administering the subsurface sewage rules; approving new technologies for use in Idaho through the Technical Guidance Committee; and ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations, such as the Idaho Environmental Protection and Health Act or the Clean Water Act. A memorandum of understanding delegates certain responsibilities to the Public Health Districts.

IDEQ responsibilities include:

- Reviewing plans and specifications for large systems, large central (shared or community) systems, and experimental systems
- Issuing permits for municipal systems
- Managing the Technical Guidance Committee and Technical Guidance Manual
- Reviewing commercially manufactured treatment and storage components
- Performing audits of the district septic system programs



Public Health responsibilities include:

- Performing site evaluations for all proposed septic systems
- Issuing permits and inspecting all new and replacement systems covered by the Individual/Subsurface Sewage Disposal Rules
- Reviewing plans and specifications for all systems not reviewed by IDEQ
- Issuing large system permits after plans have been approved by IDEQ
- Issuing permits to all septic installers & pumpers
- Investigating all complaints and instances of open sewage related to on-site sewage systems and pursuing enforcement action when appropriate

HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

PANHANDLE HEALTH DISTRICT (1)	PUBLIC HEALTH - IDAHO NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT (2)	SOUTHWEST DISTRICT HEALTH (3)	CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH (4)	SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT (5)	SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH (6)	EASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT (7)
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