



Storage and Treatment of Septage

Office of Land Quality - Solid Waste Permits

317-232-8603 • 800-451-6027

www.idem.IN.gov

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Introduction:

The Septage Permitting Program evaluates and permits activities related to the pumping, hauling, transporting, storing, treating, and land applying of septage. Septage must be managed according to [IC 13-18-12](#) and the rules in [327 IAC 7.1](#). Septage is defined in [IC 13-11-2-199.2](#) as human excreta, water, scum, sludge, sewage, incidental or accidental seepage from sewage disposal systems; retained contents of sewage holding tanks and portable sanitary unit; grease, fats, and retained wastes from grease traps or interceptors; human wastes carried in liquid from ordinary living processes.

Servicing or maintaining a publicly owned wastewater treatment facility or transporting wastewater from a publicly owned wastewater treatment facility are activities that do not require a person to obtain a permit from the Septage Permitting Program.

Storage and Treatment of Septage:

Storage is the temporary holding of waste for treatment or disposal. Treatment means any method, technique or process designed to change the physical, chemical, or biological character or composition of the waste so as to neutralize the waste; make the waste safer to transport, store, or dispose of, or reduced in volume.

Persons who wish to remove, transport, store, treat, or dispose of septage must submit to IDEM an Application for Septage Management Business Permit (State Form [#50399](#)) and, when applicable, an Application for a Septage Management Storage/Treatment Facility Permit (State Form [#50402](#)). Renewal applications must be submitted prior to the expiration date of the existing permit. Septage permits are non-transferable.

A completed application form for storage and treatment facility must include:

- An accurate drawing or aerial photograph that clearly delineates the site and area within ¼-mile of the site in all directions, and clearly indicate the locations of all features of interest.
- A soil survey map classifying the soils where the facility is to be located.
- Plans and specifications certified by a professional engineer that include the design and capacity of the facility.
- A brief narrative description of the proposed operating plan and maintenance procedures to be used at the facility.
- The name, address, and contact information of the person or persons designated in charge of the facility.
- A copy of a waiver to any of the setbacks obtained from the owner and occupant of a residence or place of business located within the setback distance.
- A notarized and signed statement accepting responsibility for closure in compliance with the rule.
- A notarized and signed affidavit concerning notification requirements under [IC 13-15-8](#).

Design and Construction Requirements:

Storage or treatment of septage is prohibited in an earthen structure or underground steel tank. A tank previously used to store a substance other than septage must be cleaned to remove all traces of the other substance prior to the addition of septage to the tank.

A septage storage or treatment facility must be designed to prevent entry of storm water run-on from surrounding areas and control storm water run-off. Storage tanks comprised of synthetic material, fiberglass, and aboveground metal tanks must be watertight, anchored, supported, and bedded to provide structural safety and prevent movement. Additional design requirements include:

- The tank material and wall thickness must be adequately engineered to contain the contents.
- The tank must be constructed or designed to allow inspection and sampling of contents, and prevent leaks, seepage, and spills that could enter waters of the state.
- The bottom of the storage tank must at all times be at least two feet above the water table and bedrock.
- An aboveground tank must be supported by a concrete base and have protected shutoff valves for all inlet and outlet pipes.

Setbacks:

Feature	Setback Distance
Easement	100 feet
Public road	300 feet
Residence, place of business, public gathering place, or property line	600 feet
Lake, pond, stream, intermittent waterway, surface water impoundment, wetland, rock outcrop, sink hole, undrained depression, or potable water supply	600 feet
Public water supply well or public water supply surface intake structure; historic site; critical habitat of endangered or threatened species	1,000 feet

Operational Requirements:

A storage or treatment facility must be maintained and operated to prevent any threats to human health or the environment. Unauthorized access to the facility must be prevented by locks, and the facility must be fenced and posted. The facility must be maintained to prevent safety hazards or disease vector conditions.

Stockpiles of solids resulting from septage treatment at the facility must be stored on an impervious surface for not longer than thirty days at any given time and maintained to have adequate run-on and run-off control methods. If solids are stored for longer than 72 hours, the material must be covered by a tarp, plastic sheet, or roof.

Closure Requirements:

A storage or treatment facility that is no longer being operated or used must be closed. A closure notification must be provided to IDEM at least thirty days in advance that the facility is to be closed. Closure activities must be completed within 120 days after the notification. A certification statement indicating closure requirements have been met must be sent to IDEM within thirty days after completion of closure.

The contents of the storage or treatment facility must be disposed of at a permitted municipal solid waste landfill, permitted solid waste processing facility, permitted biomass facility, or permitted septage treatment facility. Septage may be discharged into a wastewater treatment plant or treatment works collection system that has a valid NPDES permit. The closing facility must obtain written permission of the responsible official in charge of the disposal location prior to disposal or discharge activities. Aboveground structures must be dismantled and removed.

IDEM's Role:

IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy, and oversees the requirements for the removal, transport, storage, treatment, and disposal of septage from sewage disposal systems. Copies of permitting and recordkeeping must be retained for five years and made available to representatives of the Commissioner for inspection.

Additional Information:

- All forms listed are available on the IDEM Agency Forms page: idem.IN.gov/idem/forms/idem-agency-forms/#olq_septage
- To receive email or text updates every time IDEM posts new information, subscribe to IDEM updates at idem.IN.gov/pages/subscribe. Provide an email address or phone number.
- IDEM Virtual File Cabinet at vfc.idem.IN.gov/DocumentSearch.aspx
- For more information on regulations for septage, please visit IDEM's website at idem.IN.gov/idem/waste/waste-industries/septage-management/
- For questions and concerns, please contact Program Administrator Kate Garvey at 317-233-5552 or KRGarve@idem.IN.gov.