

FACT SHEET



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Portable Sanitary Units

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.

Portable Sanitary Units:

A portable sanitary unit includes portable toilets, mobile restrooms, and similar devices or equipment of a portable nature containing sanitary facilities for temporary or short-term use.

A chemical toilet is a toilet manufactured to receive nonwater-carried human waste directly into a deodorizing and liquefying chemical in a leakproof tank.

Portable sanitary units, including chemical toilets, and equipment on the vehicle used for transporting the units must be secured to prevent detachment from the vehicle during transport and maintained to prevent any leakage or spillage of septage during transport.

The septage management vehicle used in disposal activities specific to chemical toilet waste must be equipped with a leak-proof tank suitable for containment of septage from cleaning sewage disposal systems and must have a capacity of at least 250 gallons when pumping chemical toilets and portable sanitary units.

Note: [Persons doing business with portable sanitary units must obtain a business permit.](#)

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. (Note: There are no forms for portable sanitary units.)

- 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.