

Installation Certification of Wastewater and Potable Water Supplies

The State of Vermont Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division's Regional Offices issue permits for the installation of wastewater system and potable water supplies. An important permit requirement is that the landowner obtains and submits an Installation Certification. This condition was deemed necessary to ensure that key components of the wastewater system and potable water supply are inspected during construction and upon completion.

Q. - Am I actually required to have an Installation Inspection?

Yes. A potable water supply or wastewater system permit that approves construction or modifications to a water supply or wastewater system is not valid until a signed and dated certification from a designer or an installer, as specified in the permit, is received by the Regional Office that issued the permit.

Q. – Who is qualified to provide an Installation Certification?

Most installation certifications received by the Regional Offices are signed by a Class I, Class B, or Class A designer. These are designers who have a license to design water supplies and wastewater systems. The Permit specifies who can do the work.

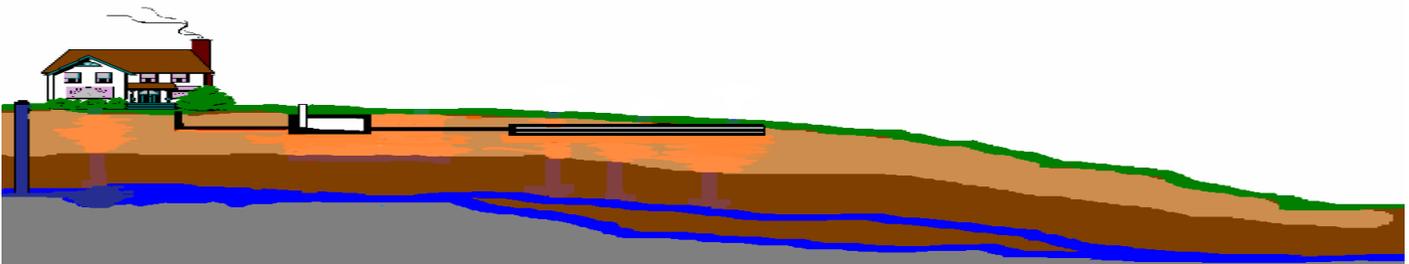
Water supplies that are greater than 20 feet deep must be installed by a Vermont Licensed Well Driller. A list of licensed drillers can be found at <http://drinkingwater.vt.gov/welldrilling/pdf/vtlicensedwelldrillers.pdf>. A Licensed Well Driller may provide the installation certification for the water supply.

Installers of a wastewater system and water supply may also complete an installation certification unless a permit condition states a designer needs to inspect the installation of the wastewater system or water supply or the system or supply is considered a "site modification" under the Rules. Site modifications require the certification be signed by a designer.

A link to lists of Vermont licensed Class A and B Designers and Class I Designers (Professional Engineers authorized to design wastewater systems and potable water supplies) can be found on our Web Site <http://drinkingwater.vt.gov/designerlicensing.htm>

Q. – Why are Installation Certifications required?

A potable water supply or wastewater system certification provides the landowner with a level of protection that the system or supply was installed according to the designs approved by the Regional Office. Inspections can detect problems with the installation of a wastewater system or water supply that if not corrected prior to use, may lead to premature malfunction or failure. Once a wastewater system is buried it is difficult to determine the cause of a failure and uncovering or replacing the system is a major expense and inconvenience to the landowner. Once a certification of installation is received for a drilled well, its location is recorded and mapped. The data base is used by licensed designers and well drillers when designing new or replacement wastewater systems or water supplies on yours and adjoining properties.



[Q. - It's my system, my property, and my drinking water. Why does the State of Vermont care if my system or water supply fails?](#)

When an onsite wastewater system fails, it's not just the homeowner who is affected. Improperly treated wastewater contains bacteria, viruses and other pollutants. A failed system can result in untreated wastewater: surfacing, leaching into the groundwater we drink, or discharging to surface waters. This is a health hazard for the general public and is especially dangerous to children, the elderly, and anyone with a compromised immune system.

An improperly placed potable water supply may become contaminated from yours or an off- site wastewater system, storm water runoff system, or agricultural activity to name a few potential sources of contamination. Maintaining required isolation distances for the siting of a well to these and other sources of contamination may impact your ability to add a bedroom to your home.

[Q. – What language is required in an Installation Certification?](#)

A signed and dated certification from a qualified Vermont Licensed Designer (or where allowed, the installer) must certify that the potable water supply or wastewater system was installed and inspected as specified in the permit. Specific Permit language that is required for your system or supply can be found in your permit.

[Q. –Will I need to pay for the Installation Certification?](#)

Permits run with the land and do not expire so, in many instances, wastewater systems and water supplies are designed for construction two, three, or more years from the date of the permit. The designer that designed the system may no longer be in practice, the individual that paid for the design may not be the landowner who is installing the water supply or wastewater system, or the landowner decides to hire a different designer for the installation certification. For these and other reasons, installation certification services are typically not included in the cost of the system design. The original designer or engineer is not required to be the individual that certifies the installation. If the cost of the Installation Certification is not included in the cost of the System Design the Landowner must pay for this additional service.

[Q. - What happens if I do not have an Installation Certification?](#)

Lack of having an installation certification means that the permit for the property is not valid and the future sale of a property or a request for a permit amendment may be delayed or negatively impacted. Further, the State can take enforcement action against a landowner for occupying a building that does not have the proper installation certification for the wastewater system and water supply.

[Q. - Where can I find my permit and documents?](#)

The permit, document, and plans for most projects can be accessed by using our on-line permit document search tool septic.vt.gov/cfm/wwdocs/index.cfm (permit document search). You can search by permit identification number (also case number), by landowner, street address, or town. There are some documents that are stored on microfilm that will need to be reviewed in the Regional Office. Please contact the appropriate Regional Office for assistance at septic.vt.gov (program information).

[Q. - Who do I contact if I have compliance questions?](#)

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