



Rule Concept: Housekeeping

Onsite Wastewater Management Program 2025

Summary of Existing Rule & Description of the Issue

Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) Chapter 340, Sections 71 and 73 contain outdated information, inconsistencies, grammatical errors, typos, and unclear points. Housekeeping updates are necessary to improve the rules for clarity, accuracy, and relevance. Minor changes are needed to address current practices and operational needs.

Revised Sections

Changes are proposed to section 340-071-0100, 0130, 0150, 0155, 0205, 0220, 0290, 0295, 0310, 0315, 0320, 0360, 0520, 0650; 340-073-0025, 0026, 0030, 0035, 0040, 0041, 0050, 0055, 0056, 0060, 0075.

Implications of Rule Changes

To provide clarification, the following additions and changes are proposed to the rules:

- A separate definition of “design flow” from “projected daily sewage flow” will be added and changes will be made to apply the appropriate definition in each context (340-071-0100, 0130, 205, 0220, 0220 Table 4 and 5, -0290, 0295, 0310, 0050, 0055); and
- The requirement to also have a sewage disposal service license to be qualified to conduct Existing System Evaluation Reports will be added for a person with a current NAWT inspector training and certification accreditation (340-071-0155).

To address accuracy, the following information will be added or changed:

- The undefined term “the department” will be changed to “DEQ,” which is a defined term (340-073-0025, 0035, 0050, 0055, 0056, 0075).
- The sieve size for cobbles will be added to Table 7, which was previously omitted in error (340-071-0100 Table 7).

To address relevance, the following outdated information will be removed:

- Automatic siphons as an approved dosing assembly. Automatic or dosing siphons are no longer used (340-071-0100, 0140 Table 9B, 0520; 340-073-0025, 0030, 0050, 0055);
- The specific edition of the Oregon State Plumbing Specialty Code. Citing the most recent edition of the rules quickly becomes outdated as OARs are updated much less frequently than plumbing code (340-071-0130, 0220);
- Filter fabric for use at the base of sand filters. The type of filter fabric specified is not commonly available any longer and the use of drain media with filter fabric in sand filters is no longer a preferred method (340-071-0295, 073-041);
- NSF/ANSI Standard No. 46 – 2012 because Standard No. 385 is specific to disinfection units, whereas Standard No. 46 pairs disinfection units with -ATT models. NSF/ANSI 385 will be added to rule in place of NSF/ANSI 46 (340-071-0345);
- Geographic Area Special Considerations for River Road – Santa Clara Area, Lane County, because the area has been sewerred (340-071-0400);

- The exception allowing DEQ installers certified before December 31, 2003, to skip the initial training examination, as it no longer applies to current DEQ installers (340-071-0650); and
- Steel tanks as an approved material, due to their compromised integrity over time, which poses a safety hazard. For that reason, steel tanks are no longer installed (340-073-0026).

To align with current practices and operational needs, the following minor changes will be made:

- Add distribution and drop boxes to the definition of Major Maintenance, allowing DEQ-certified maintenance providers and licensed installers to repair or replace them without a minor repair permit (340-071-0100);
- Add the definition of “Time Dosing”, a design feature used for facilities with irregular peak sewage flows, like churches operating one or two days a week (340-071-0100);
- Remove a private contractor as a person qualified to conduct a site evaluation for WPCF permits to be consistent with other rules (340-071-0150);
- Add language allowing an agent to require a new site evaluation if an existing site evaluation record does not have sufficient information to identify the approval area, reflecting current practice but not specified in rule (340-071-0150);
- Add seepage bed construction under absorption trenches following Sand Filters, which is currently done but is not explicitly allowed in rule (340-071-0290);
- Updated pipe specifications for pressure transport pipes, curtain drain outlet pipes, gravelless absorption method pipes, underdrain pipes, distribution pipes, and tile dewatering outlet tiles to reflect current practices and standards (340-071-0220, 0290; 340-073-0060); and
- Move header pipe specifications from Distribution Pipe and Fittings section to the Effluent Sewer Pipe section (340-073-0060).

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