

Qualified Persons

Saskatchewan recognizes Qualified Persons in their guideline as being able to apply for permits and install septic systems in the province.

In order to be qualified*, a person needs to understand and be trained in detailed site and soils evaluation and system design. Those holding a Certificate of Training in onsite wastewater are qualified to design and install septic systems in the province.

A qualified person should be able to provide you with documentation confirming their qualifications and training as well as hold appropriate errors and omissions insurance for the protection of both themselves and their customer.

Interesting Fact:

While it may seem as though septic systems have become unreasonably expensive, from a historical perspective, they have always had a rough cost of 7-12% of the cost of building a home; depending on the necessary system type.

Building a home in 1974: \$60,000
The septic would have cost: \$4,200—\$7,200

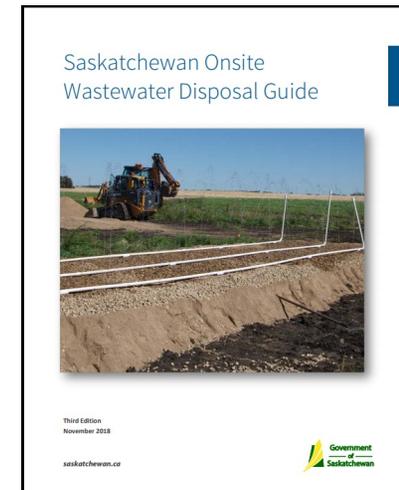
Building a home in 2014: \$350,000
The septic would have cost: \$24,000—\$42,000



Saskatchewan Onsite Wastewater Management Association

Contact Us:
Phone: 306-988-2102
Toll-Free: 855-872-2650
Fax: 855-420-6336
www.sowma.ca
E-mail: info@wcowma.com

Septic System Cost Considerations for Saskatchewan



Changes to the Saskatchewan Onsite Wastewater Disposal Guide (SOWDG) —Nov. 2018

Tel: 306-988-2102

Regulation Changes

In November 2018, a third edition of the Saskatchewan Onsite Wastewater Disposal Guide (SOWDG) was published and became the active design guidance document for septic designers and installers in the province.

Substantial changes were made to this document, whose previous version was published a decade prior, in 2009.

Due to the changes within this document, there are many requirements for new septic systems; some of which were considerations previously, and have now become mandatory, and some that were not considered previously at all.

Subsequently, the cost of septic systems in Saskatchewan has increased. This pamphlet will review some of the main factors that will have an impact on the price of your new or replacement septic system.

Changes & New Considerations

Site & Soils Evaluations

In the previous version of the SOWDG, only a basic evaluation was required. The 2018 SOWDG requires a detailed Site & Soils Evaluation & Report for all septic systems in the province of Saskatchewan. A cost is attributed to the additional site work and lab testing required by this change.

Septic Tanks

Considerations in regards to working capacity (expected maximum daily flow volume) have changed. Tank sizing has been increased by a minimum of 31%, and in many cases, more. This change is to allow better settling within the septic tank, which reduces the treatment burden on the soil based treatment component.

Effluent Filters

All septic systems now require some type of effluent filter prior to discharge to a soil based treatment system. Effluent filters protect the homeowner from accidental solids discharge into their soil based treatment systems, extending the life of the septic system.

High Level Alarms

All systems now require a high level alarm with audible and visual indications that the tank requires service. High level alarms let a homeowner know if their tank is full, or if there is an issue with their pump or soil based treatment system before it has a chance to back up into their home.

Soil Based Treatment Systems

1. Systems utilizing chambers must ensure that the chambers provide 80% coverage over the treatment area. This has been the case since the 2009 Guideline, however, it has only recently started to be enforced.
2. Linear Loading must now be considered on all systems with <3' of vertical separation.
3. Completion of the Detailed Site & Soils Evaluation has led to more accurate design constraints for systems, which in many cases has resulted in an increase in overall septic system size, as well as the realization that many older in situ systems were not sized correctly.

Larger soil based treatment systems improve the lifespan of a septic system due to the reduced stress on this important piece of infrastructure.

Properly designed, installed, and maintained septic systems protect your family, the value of your home, the environment, and public health.