

Chapter 40 – SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sec. 40-A STRUCTURES & PARAMETERS

Sec. 40-A-1 Definitions

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Dosing tank means a watertight tank or receptacle used or intended for use, for the purpose of receiving and retaining the effluent or overflow of a septic tank until discharged by an automatic siphon or pump.

Health Officer means the director of environmental health for the County Health Department or his duly authorized representative.

Septic tank means a watertight tank or receptacle used for the purpose of receiving waste from flush toilets, sink lavatories, bathtubs, showers, laundry drains, basement floor drains, any other similar waste lines and intended to provide for the separation of substantial portions of the suspended solids in such wastes and for the partial destruction by bacterial action in the solids so separated.

Sewage means the combined domestic liquid wastes conducted away from residences, business dwellings, institutions, and other places of human occupancy or any liquid wastes which may be injurious to the health, welfare or safety of the public.

Sewage disposal facilities means privy, cesspool, dry well, flush toilet, sewer pipe, septic tank, subsurface disposal system or a similar device used in the disposal of human excreta or sewage.

Sewer means a covered conduit for the conveying of sewage.

Subsurface disposal system means an arrangement for distributing septic tank effluent or overflow below the ground surface.

(Code 1979, § 21-32)

Sec. 40-A-2 Jurisdiction

The provisions of this article shall apply within the geographical boundaries of the County except in cities, villages and incorporated towns that provide and enforce rules and regulations which are at least as stringent as this article.

(Code 1979, § 21-33)

Sec. 40-A-3 Sewage Disposal System Required

All buildings where people live, work or assemble shall be provided with a sewage disposal system joined and constructed to promote and safeguard public health by the prevention of contagion and the spread of infectious diseases. Such facilities shall be constructed in accordance with the provisions of this article.

(Code 1979, § 21-34)

Sec. 40-A-4 Connections to Public Sewer Required

No outside vault, privy, chemical closet, cesspool, seepage pit or private sewage disposal system of any kind shall be constructed or maintained on any premises abutting on a street, alley or easement in which there is a public sewer. Any premises served by a public sewer shall have an individual connection with such sewer.

(Code 1979, § 21-35)

Sec. 40-A-5 Illegal Discharges

- A. No sewage shall be discharged on the surface of the ground or into any body of water or within 25 feet of a body of water.
- B. No sewage disposal facilities shall discharge on the surface of the ground or into any body of water or within 25 feet of a body of water.

(Code 1979, § 21-36)

Sec. 40-A-6 Maximum Quantities of Sewage Flow

It shall be unlawful for any person to suffer or permit the discharge of sewage in excess of the appropriate amount indicated below from any premises under his ownership, custody or control:

Type of establishment	Sewage flow (gallons per person per day)
Airports, per passenger	5
Apartments—multiple family, per resident	75
Bathhouses and swimming pools	10
Camps:	
Campground with central comfort stations	35
With flush toilets, no showers	25
Construction camps (semi-permanent)	50
Day camps (no meals served)	15
Resort camps (night and day) with limited plumbing	50
Luxury camps	100
Cottages and small dwellings with seasonal occupancy	75
Country clubs (per resident member)	100
Country clubs (per nonresident member)	25
Dwellings:	
Boardinghouses	50
(additional for nonresident boarders)	10
Luxury residences and estates	100
Roominghouses	40
Single-family dwellings	100
Factories (gallons per person, per shift, exclusive of industrial wastes)	35
Hospitals (per bed space)	250
Hotels with private baths (2 persons per room)	60
Hotels without private baths	50
Institutions other than hospitals, per bed space	125
Laundries—self service (gallons per wash, i.e., per customer)	50
Mobile home parks, per space	250

Motels, per bed space	40
Picnic parks (toilet wastes only per picnicker)	5
Picnic parks with bathhouses, showers and flush toilets	10
Restaurants (toilet and kitchen wastes per patron)	10
Restaurants (kitchen wastes per meal served)	3
Restaurants (additional for bars and cocktail lounges)	2
Schools:	
Boarding	100
Day, without gyms, cafeterias or showers	15
Day, with gyms, cafeterias and showers	25
Day, with cafeterias, but without gyms or showers	20
Service stations, per vehicle served	5
Swimming pools and bathhouses	10
Theaters:	
Movie, per auditorium seat	5
Drive-in, per car space	10
Travel trailer parks without individual water and sewer hookups, per space	50
Travel trailer parks with individual water and sewer hookups, per space	100
Workers:	
Construction (at semipermanent camps)	50
Day, at schools and offices (per shift)	15

(Code 1979, § 21-37)

Sec. 40-A-7 Administration and Enforcement

- A. The County Health Officer or his duly authorized representative shall be authorized to apply and enforce the provisions of this article.
- B. The Health Officer shall provide advice, consultation, and training for enforcement personnel upon request of any unit of government assuming its own inspection and enforcement program within the scope of this article.

(Code 1979, § 21-38)

Sec. 40-A-8 Violations

Any person violating any provisions of this article shall be punished as provided in section 5 of the Wastewater Land Treatment Site Regulation Act (415 ILCS 50/5), except that section 1-13 shall apply to violations with respect to private dwellings.

(Code 1979, § 21-39)

Sec. 40-B PERMITS

Sec. 40-B-1 Required

No person shall begin construction of or make any alteration or addition to any septic tank, septic toilet, subsurface disposal system or other devices mentioned in this article for the disposal of sewage until the owner or his representative has made application to the Health Officer and has received a sanitation permit.

(Code 1979, § 21-46)

Sec. 40-B-2 Application and Tests

A person desiring a sanitation permit shall apply to the Health Department upon forms provided by the Health Department which shall be accompanied by a sketched plat, showing the location of all existing and proposed buildings, wells, cisterns, septic tanks, grease traps, seepage systems, privy vaults, sewers, and other sewage disposal facilities and show by drawings, plans and specifications the facilities to be constructed. A percolation test may be required by the Health Officer before a sanitation permit is issued. Percolation tests are to be made in the area where the seepage field is to be located under soil conditions that will prevail following installation of seepage lines. The soil shall not be disturbed in any other way except for the installation of the seepage field.

(Code 1979, § 21-47)

Sec. 40-B-3 Fee

A person desiring the permit required in this division shall pay a fee set by the County Board. The fee schedule shall be maintained in the office of the County Clerk and the County Health Department. The fee schedule shall be available for review and copying by the public.

(Code 1979, § 21-48)

Sec. 40-B-4 Expiration

The permit required in this division shall expire one year after its issuance.

(Code 1979, § 21-49)

Sec. 40-B-5 Inspections

The Health Officer shall make such inspections during the construction for which a sanitation permit is required as he deems necessary. The Health Department shall be notified by the owner or builder before the work is covered and placed in operation. If the work is in conformity with this article, he shall issue a final inspection approval upon its completion.

(Code 1979, § 21-50)

Sec. 40-B-6 Issuance

A sanitation permit shall be issued only when the plans and specifications for an installation are not less than the requirements of this article and are approved by the Health Officer.

(Code 1979, § 21-51)

Sec. 40-B-7 Contractor's Responsibility

Any failure to construct according to approved plans and specifications shall be deemed a violation of this article for which the contractor may be held liable.

(Code 1979, § 21-52)

Sec. 40-C CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Sec. 40-C-1 Septic Tanks Generally

- A. Every septic tank shall have a liquid capacity of at least 24 hours but in no case less than 1,000 gallons. The septic tank capacity will be based on the chart in subsection (e), indicating liquid capacity of tank.
- B. Every septic tank shall be constructed in a workmanlike manner of materials not subject to corrosion or decay when installed, and shall be of watertight construction and shall be provided with one or more suitable openings with covers to permit inspection and cleaning. Such openings shall have a removable, reasonably tight metal or concrete cover which is between eight and 16 inches below the ground surface.
- C. All septic tanks shall be constructed to be structurally sound and designed to withstand normal stresses under which it will be placed. The tank shall be capable of withstanding 500 pounds per square foot of dead load pressure.
- D. Inlet baffles shall extend at least 12 inches below the surface of the liquid and to within one inch of the top of the lid. The invert elevation of the inlet shall be not less than two inches above the liquid level in the tank or any of its compartments. The outlet baffle shall be no further than 12 inches from the outlet orifice. The baffle shall extend to a depth of at least 40 percent of the liquid depth. There shall be a clearance of at least one inch of free space between the top of the tank and the baffle.
- E. The following table shall be used in conjunction with subsection A:

LIQUID CAPACITY OF TANK

Number of bedrooms	Minimum tank capacity (gallons)
Up to 3	1,000
Over 3, per bedroom	500

(Code 1979, § 21-61)

Sec. 40-C-2 Distribution Box

The use of a distribution box in the installation of a sewage disposal system is not required providing the system meets the other basic requirements of this article. If used, the bottom of a distribution box shall be watertight. Each field lateral line shall be connected separately to the distribution box. All outlet openings in the box shall be at the same level and shall be four inches above the box bottom permitting water retention to act in lieu of a baffle. The inlet shall be at least one inch above the bottom of the outlets. This distribution box shall be provided with a removable, substantial cover. The distribution box shall not be closer than four feet to the septic tank. All lines leading from the distribution box shall be sealed for a distance of six feet and this tile cannot be treated as part of a seepage field area. Where mortar is used for joints in these lines, the mortar shall be composed of three parts of clean sand and one part of cement.

(Code 1979, § 21-62)

Sec. 40-D SUBSURFACE TILE-SEEPAGE FIELD**Sec. 40-D-1 Location**

The disposal field for the handling of the effluent of a septic tank shall be at least 75 feet from any well and at least ten feet from any building. In addition, the seepage tile shall be at least 25 feet from any ditch, stream, body of water, or farm drain tile. The edge of a lateral ditch in a disposal field shall not be closer than 25 feet to a water line under pressure. Within special flood hazard areas sewage systems must be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of floodwaters into the systems and discharges from the systems into floodwaters.

(Code 1979, § 21-71)

Sec. 40-D-2 Square Feet of Seepage Trench

The square footage of seepage trench shall depend upon the soil type in which the subsurface waste disposal system is installed and shall be determined in accordance with the following specifications:

1. *Noncritical soils.*
 - a. The following soil types are hereby designated as noncritical soils: Batavia, Bowes, Camden, Catlin, Dodge, Dresden, Harvard, La Rose, Lorenzo, Miami, Octagon, Plano, Proctor, Rush, Saybrook, St. Charles and Strawn.
 - b. Subsurface waste disposal systems installed in noncritical soils in connection with residential use shall have a minimum of 330 square feet of seepage trench per bedroom in the structure served.
 - c. Subsurface waste disposal systems installed in noncritical soils in connection with nonresidential use shall have a square footage of seepage trench determined by multiplying the gallons of sewage per person per day, as determined by the table contained in section 74-81 by the maximum number of persons using the facility per day and that figure divided by 0.9.
 - d. In the case of noncritical soils having a slope of four percent or greater, the square footage of seepage trench shall be computed by multiplying the depth of gravel adjacent to the side wall on the downhill side of the trench by the length of the trench.
2. *Wet soils.*
 - a. The following soil types are hereby designated as wet soils: Drummer, Elburn, Flanagan, Harpster, Herbert, Kendall, Knight, Lisbon, Millbrook, Muscatine, Sable, Virgil, and Will.
 - b. Subsurface waste disposal systems installed in wet soils in connection with residential use shall have a minimum of 440 square feet of seepage trench per bedroom in the structure served.
 - c. Subsurface waste disposal systems installed in wet soils in connection with nonresidential use shall have a square footage of seepage trench determined by multiplying the gallons of sewage per person per day, as determined by the table contained in section 74-81, by the maximum number of persons using the facility per day and that figure divided by 0.6.
 - d. Before a subsurface waste disposal system may be installed in wet soils, provisions must be made to lower and maintain the water table to at least five feet below the surface of the property involved.
3. *Floodplain soils.*
 - a. The following soil types are hereby designated as floodplain soils: Marshland and Sawmill.
 - b. Subsurface waste disposal systems installed in floodplain soils in connection with residential use shall have a minimum of 440 square feet of seepage trench per bedroom in the structure served.
 - c. Subsurface waste disposal systems installed in floodplain soils in connection with nonresidential use shall have a square footage of seepage trench determined by multiplying the gallons of sewage per person per day, as determined by the table contained in section 74-81, by the maximum number of persons using the facility per day and that figure divided by 0.6.

- d. Before a subsurface waste disposal system may be installed in floodplain soils, provisions shall be made to lower and maintain the water table to at least five feet below the surface of the property involved.
 - e. Before a subsurface waste disposal system may be installed in floodplain soils, provisions shall be made to divert all surface water around and away from the subsurface waste disposal system to ensure that no flooding or ponding will occur on the surface of the ground above the system.
 - f. Before a subsurface waste disposal system may be installed in floodplain soils, provisions shall be made to provide a floodwater storage capacity equivalent to that theretofore existing.
 - g. Before a subsurface waste disposal system may be installed in floodplain soils, provisions shall be made to ensure that no soil erosion will result from the installation of the system.
4. *Organic soils.*
- a. The following soil types are hereby designated as organic soils: Houghton, Muck and Peatone.
 - b. Subsurface waste disposal systems installed in organic soils in connection with residential use shall have a minimum of 440 square feet of seepage trench per bedroom in the structure served.
 - c. Subsurface waste disposal systems installed in organic soils in connection with nonresidential use shall have a square footage of seepage trench determined by multiplying the gallons of sewage per person per day, as determined by the table contained in section 74-81, by the maximum number of persons using the facility per day and that figure divided by 0.6.
 - d. Before a subsurface waste disposal system may be installed in organic soils, provisions shall be made to lower and maintain the water table to at least five feet below the surface of the property involved.
 - e. Before a subsurface waste disposal system may be installed in organic soils, provisions shall be made to divert all surface water around and away from the subsurface waste disposal system to ensure that no flooding or ponding will occur on the surface of the ground above the system.
 - f. Before a subsurface waste disposal system may be installed in organic soils, provisions shall be made to provide a floodwater storage capacity equivalent to that theretofore existing.
 - g. Before a subsurface waste disposal system may be installed in organic soils, provisions shall be made to ensure that no soil erosion will result from the installation of the system.
 - h. Before a subsurface waste disposal system may be installed in organic soils, all organic soils shall be removed and replaced with noncritical soils in the area in which the system is installed and for a distance of 25 feet beyond the system in any direction.

(Code 1979, § 21-72)

Sec. 40-D-3 Serial Distribution

There shall be at least two laterals in the seepage field and no lateral shall be longer than 100 feet. Each lateral will be joined at the ends to provide serial distribution. If the slope of the land is too great, then a series of drop tees or drop boxes shall serve each lateral after its capacity has been fully utilized.

(Code 1979, § 21-73)

Sec. 40-D-4 Seepage Trench Requirements

All seepage trenches in a disposal field shall comply with the following standards:

1. The minimum bottom width of trench shall be 24 inches.
2. The depth of earth cover shall be 12 to 24 inches.
3. The maximum grade of tile lines shall be zero to four inches per 100 feet.
4. The recommended grade of tile lines shall be zero inches per 100 feet.
5. The minimum aggregate under tiles shall be ten inches.
6. The minimum aggregate over tiles shall be two inches.

7. The minimum opening between ends of tiles shall be one-quarter inch.
8. The maximum opening between ends of tiles shall be one-half inch.
9. The depth of the trench shall be 24 to 36 inches.
10. Minimum size of tiles shall be four inches in diameter.
11. Bottom areas of separate trenches shall be as nearly equal as practical, especially where tile fields are placed on ground of appreciable slope. Size and spacing of trenches shall conform to the following table:

Width at bottom (in inches)	Square feet at bottom (per lineal foot)	Minimum spacing center to center (in feet)
24	2.0	7
30	2.5	8
36	3.0	10

12. Grade board, securely staked in the bottom of the trench and left in place under the tile during and after placing of aggregate material encasing the tile will be required for all installations. Upper halves of joints are to be covered with pieces of tar paper or approved inorganic membrane to prevent filtering of backfill material into the tile lines.

All aggregate shall be screened crushed stone, gravel, slag or similar material having sufficient voids. Crushed stone, gravel, and slag shall not contain more than five percent dust and clay. Aggregate used may vary from one-half to 2½ inches in size. Variations in size of aggregate may be approved at the discretion of the Health Officer. Straw or untreated paper shall be placed over the aggregate before ditch is filled with earth backfill. Backfill material over aggregate must be porous topsoil, and shall not contain impervious clay.

The aggregate shall completely encase the tile as provided except that seepage trenches constructed within ten feet of large trees or dense shrubbery shall have at least 12 inches of aggregate beneath the tile.

(Code 1979, § 21-74)

Sec. 40-E ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS

Sec. 40-E-1 Use Generally

Alternative systems such as buried sand filters, serration units, Wisconsin mounds, and seepage pits may be installed if space is not available for disposal lines, if the soil does not readily absorb liquids, or if there is a danger of contaminating a water supply.

(Code 1979, § 21-91)

Sec. 40-E-2 Granting of Sanitation Permit

Sanitation permits for alternative systems shall be granted only if a study of the individual case shows the installation to be practical and that it will not become objectionable or a danger to the health of the surrounding community.

(Code 1979, § 21-91)

Sec. 40-F SUMP PUMP

Sec. 40-F-1 Use Generally

A basement sump pump may be used for collection and discharge of drainage from foundation footing drains and such discharge shall be to the outside ground surface. If a sump pump is used for the discharge of laundry wastes, a separate sump pump shall be used and it shall discharge into the septic system. Sump pits must have a concrete bottom, unless the lining of the pit is an approved plastic or other material with an integral leakproof bottom.

(Code 1979, § 21-91)

Sec. 40-G SEPTIC TANK CLEANER'S LICENSE

Sec. 40-G-1 Required

No person shall engage in or carry on the business of cleaning or servicing septic tanks, seepage pits, cesspools or other sewage disposal unit without a license issued by the Health Officer; provided, however, that no such license shall be required for farmers who clean septic tanks located on their farms. In addition, any person wishing to be licensed as a septic tank cleaner in the County shall pass a written examination administered by the County Health Department. A 75 percent score shall be required of each applicant. If an applicant has passed the state septic tank cleaner exam, has a current state license, and meets all the requirements of this chapter he shall be licensed without examination upon payment of the fees set forth in this division.

(Code 1979, § 21-101)

Sec. 40-G-2 Application

A person desiring the license required in this division shall apply in writing on such forms as are prescribed by the Health Officer.

(Code 1979, § 21-102)

Sec. 40-G-3 Fee

A person desiring a septic tank cleaner license shall pay an annual license fee set by the County Board. The fee shall be maintained in the office of the County Clerk and the County Health Department. The fee shall be available for review and copying by the public.

(Code 1979, § 21-103)

Sec. 40-G-4 Issuance

If the Health Officer or his duly authorized agent, after such inspection of equipment and investigation as is deemed necessary, is satisfied that the applicant for a septic tank cleaner's license has the qualifications, experience and equipment to perform the services in a manner not detrimental to public health, and the site of disposal of sludge or other wastes from any septic tank, seepage pit, cesspool or other waste disposal unit is approved, a license shall be issued to the applicant upon payment of the required fee.

(Code 1979, § 21-104)

Sec. 40-G-5 Expiration

A septic tank cleaner's license shall, regardless of the date of issuance, expire on June 30 of each year.

(Code 1979, § 21-105)

Sec. 40-G-6 Revocation

The Health Officer may suspend or revoke any septic tank cleaner's license if, after a hearing, he shall find incompetency, negligence, misrepresentation or failure to comply with any of the provisions of this article.

(Code 1979, § 21-106)

Sec. 40-G-7 Vehicles

All trucks or other vehicles used to transport sewage wastes shall be identified by such information as is deemed necessary when the application for license is made, and shall carry a sign on both sides of the vehicle in a conspicuous place in letters not less than two inches high, and in a contrasting color to the vehicle, the words, or abbreviations "DeKalb Co. Lic. No. _____," which words or abbreviations shall be followed by the number of the license issued.

(Code 1979, § 21-107)

Sec. 40-H SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM INSTALLER'S LICENSE

Sec. 40-H-1 Required

No person shall engage in or carry on the business of construction, installing, altering or repairing of any sewage disposal system or component without a license issued by the Health Officer. In addition, any person wishing to be licensed as a private sewage disposal system installer shall pass a written examination administered by the County Health Department. A 75 percent score shall be required of each applicant. If an applicant has passed the state private sewage disposal system installer exam, has a current state license, and meets all the requirements of this chapter he shall be licensed without examination upon payment of the fees set forth in this division.

(Code 1979, § 21-116)

Sec. 40-H-2 Application

A person desiring the license required in this division shall apply in writing on such form as prescribed by the Health Officer.

(Code 1979, § 21-117)

Sec. 40-H-3 Fee

- A. Except as provided in subsection B of this section a person desiring a sewage disposal system installer's license shall pay an annual license fee set by the County Board. The fee shall be maintained in the office of the County Clerk and the County Health Department. The fee shall be available for review and copying by the public.
- B. A license fee to install sewage disposal systems shall not be required of plumbers or apprentices who hold a valid state license under the plumbing license law, or of a resident owner or intended resident owner who may personally install a system for his own single-family residence—this does not apply to builders of speculative homes. This subsection shall not relieve the installer from obtaining a permit to install and from complying with the other provisions of this article.

(Code 1979, § 21-118)

Sec. 40-H-4 Issuance

If the Health Officer, after such investigation as is deemed necessary, is satisfied that an applicant for the license required in this division has the qualifications, experience, and equipment to perform the services in a manner not detrimental to public health and upon payment of the required fee, a license shall be issued to the applicant.

(Code 1979, § 21-119)

Sec. 40-H-5 Expiration

A sewage disposal system installer's license shall, regardless of the date of issuance, expire on June 30 of each year.

(Code 1979, § 21-120)

Sec. 40-H-6 Revocation

The Health Officer may suspend or revoke any sewage disposal system installer's license if, after a hearing, he shall find incompetency, negligence, misrepresentation or failure to comply with any of the provisions of this article.

(Code 1979, § 21-121)