



## **A Compilation of Generally Accepted Testing Standards for On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems**

Evaluations and summary reports should be conducted-by and prepared-by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in New York State or other qualified professionals may be used, at the discretion of the Commission. An optimum report should contain the following:

1. Copies of original system design plans, flow rates, and approvals, if available. Otherwise, detailed description and plans of system components based on a field investigation; their physical layout, horizontal setback distances from property lines, buildings, wells, and surface waters. A description of any additions to the house or building since the system was installed. Observations of leaking toilets or the addition of significant wastewater-generating fixtures such as water softeners.
2. A plan view diagram showing surface drainage patterns in the area of the tank and infiltration device by slope and surface flow directional arrows.
3. Description of the type of wastewater processed by the system (domestic, commercial, etc.)
4. System age, design flow and daily water use (through meter records or estimated showing calculations) and the dates of the last two septic tank pump outs.
5. Description of the septic tank, including age, size, internal and external conditions, liquid level, etc. This will require a pump-out, but only after the flow trial, if required.
6. Description of the distribution box, dosing siphon, or distribution pump, including evidence of solids carryover, clear water infiltration, and equal flow division (to leaching device), and evidence of backup, if any.
7. Description of the infiltration system, including signs of hydraulic failure, condition of the surface vegetation, level of ponding above the infiltration surface (if any), other sources of hydraulic loading.
8. If the original design plans and age information are not available, or at the discretion of the Commission, a flow trial is to be conducted at the rate of 75 gallons/bedroom @ 5-10 gallons per minute with less than 2 inch rise in septic tank fluid level. The flow trial should also incorporate observations of slow flushing or gurgling of water in plumbing fixtures.
9. Finally, a conclusion as to the impact of additional flows associated with any proposed expansions (17 gpd/boat with 3.5 gpf toilets and 8 gpd/boat with 1.6 gpf toilets).

### **Sources:**

New York State Department of Health's "*Individual Residential Wastewater Treatment Systems Design Handbook*" (the "red" book)

USEPA's "*Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual*" and "*Septic System Checkup: The Rhode Island Handbook for Inspection*"