

Interim Septage Storage Tanks

What are interim septage storage tanks?

The term "Interim Septage Storage tank" is not defined in rule but refers to tanks used by DEQ licensed pumpers to store domestic septic tank pumpings (septage) prior to being hauled to a final disposal site.

What is the need for these tanks?

DEQ-licensed pumpers often serve homeowners and businesses at times and locations that make traveling to the final permitted disposal site inconvenient to the pumper or homeowner. For example, there may be a need on a Saturday afternoon to pump a septic tank located many miles from the final permitted disposal site that accepts septage or may not be open at the time that the septic tank is being pumped. Thus, interim septage storage tanks may be useful to pumper businesses to better serve their customers and allow for more cost effective management of their loads (e.g. reduce fuel costs, hauling full loads).

Typically, the tanks will be used to store septage *only* for the length of time necessary to make arrangements for septage to be disposed of at the final disposal facility as stated in the business' Septage Management Plan. The length of time will vary but it should not exceed three days.

Permitting interim septage storage tanks

In order to serve both licensed pumpers and homeowners and small businesses more effectively, DEQ is allowing interim septage storage tanks. These tanks will be regulated *similarly* to holding tanks under OAR 340-071. All interim septage storage tanks will require an individual Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) permit. Several interim septage storage tanks at the same location (property) may be placed on a single WPCF permit. The WPCF permit application procedures in OAR 340-071-0162 will be followed. Fees for WPCF permit applications are found in OAR 340-071-0140. The application has a list of exhibits that must be included in the permit application. Application forms may be found on DEQ's Web site.

Land Use Requirements

All interim septage storage tanks must have a valid WPCF permit. A valid Land Use Capability Statement (LUCS) must accompany each permit application. DEQ can not issue a permit unless a valid LUCS has been completed

by the appropriate local land use authority. In some cases the local land use authority may have additional requirements for these activities.

Specific requirements for interim septage storage tanks

- All tanks are to be listed on the licensed pumper's septage management plan. The listing is to include both the type of permit and the individual permit number, and identify the location of each tank. Each tank must clearly display the name of the property owner and the pumping service responsible for servicing the tank.
- Tanks are to be located as far from dwellings and businesses as practicable and at minimum must meet all setbacks in OAR 340-071-0220 (Table 1). The tank discharge and pumping area is to be fenced (6 foot minimum height) with a locked gate. The immediate area around the interim septage storage tanks be an impervious surface and kept clean and odor free.
- Origin and destination records are to be kept for *each* load of waste that passes through each storage tank.
- Above ground storage tanks must have watertight containment basins of adequate size to accommodate the entire tank contents in case of leakage.
- Underground interim septage storage tanks should be installed with anti-buoyancy measures in place as per manufacturer. Custom tanks must have an Oregon-registered engineer submit anti-buoyancy measures.
- Tank size must be a minimum of 1,500 gallons and also must be 500 gallons larger than the maximum pumper truck tank volume.

For more information

For specific permitting questions please contact the appropriate DEQ regional office (list at right). For program information, please contact the state onsite program coordinator.

Alternative Formats

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications & Outreach for more information at (503) 229-5696.



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