

Sewage Holding Tanks

Minimum requirements for construction and use

The following are the minimum requirements of Fraser Health for the construction and use of a domestic sewage holding tank to service a structure. Requirements for Temporary Holding tank installations may vary. Please contact the Land Use Program, Environmental Health Officers for further details.

1. A permit for the construction and installation of a holding tank must be obtained from the Fraser Health Authority prior to placement. The permit fee is \$400.00.
2. The specifications, design and installation of the holding tank and related works shall be done to good engineering practice, inspected and sealed by an Authorized Person (AP).
3. Minimum tank capacity is 3410 litres (750 Imperial Gallons) or 7 times the design daily sewage flow, whichever is greater.
4. The holding tank and risers must be sealed against the entry of ground and surface water. The Authorized Person must certify the structural integrity and water tightness of the holding tank after installation.
5. The tank must be of sufficient weight or anchored to prevent floatation or movement in areas with high water tables or low weight bearing soils. Professional engineer assurance may be required. Manufactured approved depth of bury must not be exceeded. The lot must be landscaped to divert surface water away from the holding tank.
6. The inlet and/or manhole access must be secured against vandalism and unauthorized access. Venting where provided should not result in odours from the usage of the holding tank.
7. The holding tank must be located so that it is protected from physical damage and so that there is easy access from the road for the pumping truck. The tank must meet the following setback requirements:
 - 1 metre (3 feet) from a parcel boundary or building.
 - 3 metres (10 feet) from a domestic waterline.
 - 15 metres (50 feet) from a source of domestic water.

Application forms are available on the Fraser Health website at: www.fraserhealth.ca/healthprotection.

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8. Two high level visual and audible alarms are to be installed to activate at 75% and again at 90% of tank capacity. The alarm panel is to be installed where the occupants can see and hear the alarm. The alarm panel shall have a "power on" indicator light. An automatic water shut off device, which shuts off the water supply to the building when the tank reaches 90% capacity, may be required by the Environmental Health Officer. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that all electrical code and permit requirements from other agencies are complied with.
9. Emergency overflow piping from the holding tank is not permitted.
10. The owner must maintain at all times a contract with a commercial sewage pump and hauler for removal of the sewage to an approved disposal facility, both on a regular scheduled basis and as stipulated in the approved maintenance plan. Fraser Health must be provided with a copy of the contract and maintenance plan.
11. Local government holding tank bylaws may be in effect which may prohibit or regulate the construction or use of a sewage holding tank. Applicants are advised to check with the local building department to determine if there is a bylaw in effect. The most restrictive requirements for the holding tank will apply.
12. Conditions may be attached to the construction permit.
13. The Authorized Person must complete and submit the Fraser Health Letter of Certification form upon completion of the holding tank installation.

For more information, please call
Population Public Health Call Centre at:

604-587-3936

and request to be connected to the Water and Land Use Program.

www.fraserhealth.ca/healthprotection