

Installer - Need to Know

Level 1 = apprentice, beginner

Level 2 = journey man, advanced

I. The professional will understand the general overall site planning and preparation. Be able to ask questions. Have copies of issued permit documentation. Conventional systems have more flexibility and are generally level 1 competencies unless there are site limitations to be considered. Commercial conventional and alternative or advanced treatment will require more advanced (level 2) knowledge and consultation with designer. *Unless otherwise noted this section is all required for level 1 installers.*

A. Reading and understanding plans/profiles

1. Drawings

a. Types

(1) Vicinity map/site location

(2) Site plan

(3) Profiles

(4) Hydraulic profiles

(5) Cross-section views

(6) Plan and profile/cross-section detail (Enlargement) views

b. Benchmarks

c. Orientation

d. Elevations

e. Boundaries & setbacks

f. Scale

g. Contours

2. Notes

a. General construction notes

b. Material specifications

c. Designer's notes

(1) General construction notes

(2) Specific equipment installation notes

d. Regulatory requirements

e. Factory specs/Shop drawings (how the component was built)

3. Equipment specifications

4. List of materials/equipment/parts

5. Design calculations

a. Pump curves

b. Buoyancy

c. Component sizing

6. Manufacturer installation requirements (how the component needs to be installed)

B. Surveying

1. Equipment

2. Surveying techniques

3. Bench points

- C. General walk-about site to compare the plans against the actual site
 - 1. Topography
 - 2. Setbacks
 - 3. Slopes
 - 4. Drainage
 - 5. Soil types
 - 6. Etc.
- D. Addressing design changes as a result of site walk-about
 - 1. Identify any changes to original plans, including changing to “equivalent” specifications
 - 2. Understand difference between design change and field change
 - 3. Provide these identified changes to designer for review and approval (may include regulatory approval)
- E. Laying out the System
 - 1. Staking
 - 2. Blue Stake/private locater
 - 3. Setbacks
 - 4. Drainfield/soil treatment area on the contours
 - 5. Tank accessibility
 - 6. Equipment accessibility/Ingress-Egress
 - 7. Maintainability
 - 8. Problem identification (see also I.D.)
- F. System installation methods
 - 1. Ground pressure/compaction
 - 2. Backhoe bucket width
 - 3. Travel pathways over the site
 - 4. Work from upslope

II. The professional will understand the general best management practices for installation. *Unless otherwise noted this section is all required for level 1 installers.*

- A. Personal Protective Equipment
- B. Site Safety Practices
- C. Site Conditions
 - 1. Proper weather & soil moisture conditions for installation
 - a. Frozen soils-wait till thaw
 - b. Wet soil
 - c. Rain
 - d. Surface water diversion and erosion control
- D. Hazards
 - 1. Tipping of equipment
 - 2. Damage from rotation
 - 3. Cave-in/collapse/shoring protection
 - 4. Utilities – overhead & underground
 - 5. Confined space entry requirements
- E. Verification of functionality of all existing and/or reused components

III. Professional must understand regulations associated with installing. *Unless otherwise noted this section is all required for level 1 installers.*

- A. Local, county, state, federal
 - 1. Currently adopted plumbing code (note: varies by jurisdiction)
 - 2. Currently adopted electrical code (note: varies by jurisdiction)
- B. Needs for as-built drawings
- C. Proof of specifications
 - 1. Watertightness
 - 2. Sand size
 - 3. Substitution equivalency
- D. OSHA safety requirements & compliance

IV. Professional will understand installation issues with system components. *Unless otherwise noted this section is all required for level 1 installers.*

- A. Building sewer specifications (NOTE: level 2 but level 1 should know where to find applicable plumbing code)
 - 1. Pipe specifications
 - 2. Depth
 - 3. Slope (with and without solids)
 - 4. Freezing
 - 5. Cleanouts
 - 6. Sub-base density (no settling/bellies)
 - 7. Cleaning, priming, and gluing joints
- B. Septic Tank
 - 1. General tank protections-don't drive over, installation requirements, leak testing procedure
 - 2. Location (setbacks)
 - 3. Setting and securing a tank in high-water table areas
 - 4. Dimension/capacity check
 - 5. Baffling
 - a. Materials
 - b. Fasteners
 - c. Dimensions
 - 6. Sealing between joints, inlet and outlet pipes, penetrations, riser joints
 - 7. Constructing pour-in-place tanks (NOTE: level 2)
 - a. Design (dimensions, strength, etc.)
 - b. Concrete type
 - c. Re-bar requirements
 - d. Climatic conditions
 - 8. Testing watertightness
 - 9. "Securing" manhole covers
 - 10. Manhole warning label
 - 11. Backfilling (crowning)
 - 12. Access openings
 - a. Elevation
 - (1) At grade

(2) 6" below grade with surface marker

- b. Security
- 13. Insulating tanks
- C. Distribution System
 - 1. Supply pipes
 - 2. Materials
 - 3. Size
 - 4. Slope
 - 5. Sub-base requirements
 - 6. Bedding
 - 7. Freezing (w/distribution pipes)
 - 8. Cleaning, priming, and gluing joints
- D. Gravity
 - 1. Distribution Boxes
 - a. Placement
 - b. Level slope in and out of box
 - c. Prevention of settling
 - d. Cleaning, priming and gluing joints
 - e. Sealing lid
 - f. Insuring even distribution of flow
 - g. Maintenance/accessibility
 - (1) At grade
 - (2) 6" below grade with surface marker
 - 2. Drop Boxes
 - a. Elevation
 - b. Box specs
 - c. Proper slope of pipes in and out of box
 - d. Hole configuration
 - e. Sub-base requirements
 - f. Soil cover requirements

(Stopped)

- E. Pressure (NOTE: Level 2)
 - 1. Manifold requirements (changing pipe sizing)
 - 2. Floats
 - a. Types
 - b. Setting
 - 3. Choosing a pump
 - a. Wiring/electrical
 - (1) Must be done by a licensed electrician
 - 4. Alarm
 - a. Types/wiring
 - 5. Event counter
 - 6. Distribution Pipe
 - a. suitable types
 - b. hole drilling and bur removal

- c. Cleaning, priming and gluing joints
 - d. Leveling
 - e. Manifold construction
- F. Soil Treatment System
1. Principles
 - a. Excavation
 - b. Keep the installation dry
 - (1) Plastic limit (how to do it, where to take it)
 - (2) Exposure to rainfall
 - c. Keep the installation natural
 - (1) Equipment (traffic, weight, bucket)
 - (2) Smearing
 - (3) Driving or walking on surface bottom (beds)
 - d. Keep the installation level
 - e. Keep the installation shallow
 2. Media (needs expansion here to address differences between MN and AZ terminology/technology)
 - a. Different types, different products (installation advantages, disadvantages)
 - b. Placement of rock (compaction while placing)
 - (1) Geotextile
 - (a) Specs
 - (b) Placement
 - c. Material check for correct product specification, size, durability and cleanliness of rock.
- G. In-ground systems
1. Surface preparation
 - a. Soil moisture
 - b. Equipment
 2. Media placement
 3. Inspection pipes
- H. At-Grades- Level 2
1. Surface preparation
 - a. Soil moisture
 - b. Equipment
 2. Media placement
 3. Inspection pipes
- I. Mounds- Level 2
1. Surface preparation
 - a. Soil moisture
 - b. Equipment
 2. Sand
 - a. Spec
 - b. Testing
 - c. Placement
 - (1) Minimum depth
 - (2) Equipment

- 3. Distribution media placement
- 4. Inspection pipes
- J. Backfill (is this section needed)
 - 1. Protocols
 - 2. Types- (what does this mean?) Different types of soils require different protocols
 - 3. Quantities generated-level 2 unless cap or berm
- K. Topsoil-level 2
 - 1. Quality
 - 2. Quantify
 - a. Compaction
 - 3. Placement with minimal compaction
- L. Landscaping.
 - 1. Communication between owner, landscaper, and installer for protection of system
 - 2. Who is responsible
 - 3. Vegetation establishment requirement
 - a. Seeding/sod recommendation
 - 4. Frost and erosion protection the first year

V. Professional will understand the installation inspection requirements. *Unless otherwise noted this section is all required for level 1 installers.*

- A. Who is responsible to see if it happens
- B. Check local ordinances for notification requirements for an inspection
- C. Designated registered professional needs to be on site during construction-level 2
- D. Preparation of as-built drawings
 - 1. As-built requirements

VI. Professional will understand proper tank and soil treatment system abandonment. *Unless otherwise noted this section is all required for level 1 installers.*

- A. Procedure and requirements
 - 1. Tank
 - 2. Soil treatment system

VII. Professional will understand general information which is useful to homeowners. *Unless otherwise noted this section is all required for level 1 installers.*

- A. Keep in vegetation
- B. Do not drive or build on it
- C. Winter time precautions
- D. As-built drawings given to them
- E. Water use
- F. Suitable discharges
- G. Tank maintenance
- H. Overall system maintenance- level 1 conventional, Level 2 Alternative or advanced
- I. Alarm system- level 2
- J. Do not damage/use second site
- K. Do not locate irrigation over septic system

VIII. Professional must have general math skills. *Unless otherwise noted this section is all required for level 1 installers.*

- A. Add, subtract, multiply, and divide
 - 1. Slope
 - 2. Unit conversion
- B. Basic algebra/geometry
- C. Graphing (pump curves) - Level 2

Place Holders

- 1. Use of septic tank as holding tank until system can be constructed-only with regulatory approval
- 2.