

CHECKLIST for SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTIONS

This checklist is provided as a guide to assist qualified individuals through the inspection process. It is also intended to be a resource for the homeowner, helping them to learn more about their wastewater disposal system. Qualified inspectors should have training and experience in septic system performance, repair, maintenance or design. They generally include professional engineers, registered environmental health specialists, licensed septic tank pumpers, and other licensed or certified individuals.

Owner's Name: _____ APN: _____

Physical Address: _____

		YES	NO	UNK
RECORDS SEARCH AND REVIEW				
1	Are existing septic permit records available from Plumas County Environmental Health to help locate the size, construction, location, and other pertinent data regarding the existing system?			
2	Are "as-built" drawings available from Plumas County Building Department?			
3	Are records or other information available from the property owner?			
Please attach all available records to this report.				
Comments:				
PERFORM VISUAL SURFACE (SITE) INSPECTION				
1	Are there any signs of system failure which could include: surfacing sewage, evidence that sewage has surfaced in the past (matted biological material), wet or spongy soil conditions, significant difference in vegetation (darker, taller, greener grasses, etc.) or odors?			
NOTE: Sewage or wastewater on the ground is a significant health risk, is a violation of County Code and should be corrected immediately.				
Comments:				
UNCOVER AND EXPOSE SEPTIC TANK				
1	Note level of liquid in tank. Is the level below the outlet pipe?			
Comments:				
2	Is a test for watertightness indicated?			
Comments:				

		YES	NO	UNK
3	Is the tank constructed of an approved material?			
NOTE: Septic tanks should be water-tight. Redwood, steel, 2-piece concrete tanks have shown to leak over time. Leaking tanks may pose a health risk or threat to the environment. Please contact Environmental Health.				
4	Construction of septic tank is: _____			
Comments:				
5	Are there any obvious problems with the septic tank location relative to applicable setbacks, such as property lines, foundations, decks, piers, pilings or other weight-bearing loads?			
Comments:				
6	Are the tank contents typical of a properly functioning system? Visually check the contents of the tank. The inlet (larger compartment) should consist of floating solids (scum), settled solids (sludge) and partially decomposed organic matter.			
NOTE: If more than 1/3 of the tank volume is occupied by solids and/or scum, the tank should be pumped.				
Comments:				
OBTAIN A QUALIFIED CONTRACTOR TO PUMP SEPTIC TANK				
1	As tank is being pumped, is effluent flowing back into the tank, which may indicate that the leachfield is failing?			
2	Is the tank adequately sized for structure served? 750 gallon = 1-2 bedroom 1000 gallon = 3 bedroom 1200 gallon = 4 bedroom 1500 gallon = 5-6 bedrooms			
Comments:				
3	Are the sanitary tees present on both the inlet and outlet lines?			
4	Is the baffle present and intact?			
5	Are there any cracks or root penetrations present which would prevent the tank from being watertight?			
6	Is a watertightness test indicated?			
NOTE: If a breach is present in the tank, this may represent a significant risk to health or the environment. Leaking tanks should be repaired, replaced, or taken out of service. County Code requires a permit for septic tank replacement.				
7	Is the leak or breach repairable?			
NOTE: If a repair is attempted, a watertightness test to assure that the tank is no longer leaking is indicated. If a repair is not successful, the septic tank may need to be replaced.				
8	Was a water test done to conform the effectiveness of the repair?			
9	Is tank replacement indicated?			
Comments:				

		YES	NO	UNK
INSPECT THE LEACHFIELD TO CONFIRM PROPER FUNCTION				
1	Has the home been continuously occupied for thirty (30) days or more, prior to this inspection?			
2	Was a hydraulic loading test performed? (Recommended)			
<p>NOTE: To perform a hydraulic loading test, a garden hose is insert into the outlet pipe which serves the leachfield. Water is run full flow for 15 to 30 minutes. If, within that amount of time, the water does not seep back into the tank, if there is no bubbling or gurgling, and if no water surfaces over the leachfield, the field is presumed to be capable of receiving effluent from the septic tank.</p>				
Comments:				
3	Are there any obvious problems with the leachfield location relative to applicable setbacks, such as wells, lakes, trees, ponds, cut banks and structures as appropriate?			
Comments:				
<p>NOTE: Future replacement area for sewage disposal should be considered. Based on the lot size and future improvements, you may want to confirm that adequate area exists. For more information, please consult Environmental Health.</p>				
Comments:				
PLOT PLAN				
1	Sketch a plot plan which identifies the existing structures, driveways, parking areas, well locations, septic tank and leachfield location and future leachfield replacement area. Is such a sketch attached to this report?			
<p>NOTE: It is strongly recommended that a copy of this sketch be submitted to Environmental Health for future reference. A copy of this sketch can also be placed in a secure location on the property, such as inside the electric panel or sub panel.</p>				

Certification:

I, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed

Printed

Date