

3. What it means for you

What the proposed regulation means

All septic systems must be approved by Boulder County Public Health (BCPH). This means it must pass specific criteria and be certified by BCPH. If you are selling your home, you must have a Certificate of Operation or have secured a permit that details what work is needed to bring the septic system to approved status.

Easy steps to meeting the proposed regulation . . .

Check

Find out the status of your home's septic system by checking our website, which will tell you if your system is permitted and has a final approval date. It will even tell you the maximum number of bedrooms your system can accommodate. This is important in case you have added any bedrooms.

Permit

You'll need a septic system permit to transfer a property, build a new system, or repair an existing system. All septic systems must be permitted and must receive final approval.

Update

After you receive your permit to build or repair your system, your design engineer and licensed installer can begin doing the work.

Approve

Once the installation or repairs are complete, Boulder County Public Health will inspect the system to ensure the protection of the public's health and the environment. You will then receive a Certificate of Final Approval.

NEW

Beginning 2008

Septic Smart Proposed Strategies

As part of the SepticSmart Program, Boulder County is proposing to enact a property transfer regulation in 2008. This would require all homes to have an inspection at the time of sale or purchase of a home to ensure the septic system is adequately operating and APPROVED. Just like inspecting a roof or electrical system, buyers and sellers will need to make sure the septic system is in good working condition or discuss agreements for the completion of any needed repairs within six months of the purchase.

Other strategies include directing outreach to high risk areas, general education, and helping those with permitted systems get approved. Homeowners are being asked to provide input on these proposed strategies through public open house events.

Where to begin

To find out more about why fecal matters, please visit our website. It includes all sorts of helpful stuff - details about the septic system approval process, questions and answers, a list of certified septic system inspectors and industry professionals, proposed strategies, your septic permit status, and what to do next.

Go to our new website
www.SepticSmart.org
or call our HelpLine
877-462-2911

Boulder County Public Health
3450 Broadway
Boulder, CO 80304
HelpLine 877-462-2911



Does Fecal Matter?

What you need to know about your septic system, your health, and PROPOSED STRATEGIES.





your health



your family



our water



your home value

1. Why it matters

Why it matters

Thousands of unapproved and aging septic systems are posing a serious threat to our water and our health in Boulder County. In plain terms, many septic systems aren't working properly; the stuff that goes into your septic system can find its way out of your house and leak into our water.

You wouldn't believe what some people put down their septic systems. While healthy, functioning systems are a good solution for handling human waste, some people throw other harmful things down the drain, like hazardous chemicals, medicine, paint thinner, and cigarette butts, which can harm our waters.

It matters to your health

Many homes with septic systems depend on private wells for their water supply. In many cases, wells and septic systems are in close proximity, creating serious health risks if the septic systems are not operating properly.

It matters to your family

Maintaining a healthy, functioning septic system keeps your home and family safe from contaminated water and E. coli bacteria. Make sure to keep your system properly maintained and approved.

It matters to your property

A healthy septic system can add value to your home, while a failing system can be a liability. Just like with your foundation, roof, and electrical system, keeping these home basics in tip-top shape means enhancing the value of your home.

It matters to our water

Everyone downstream depends on clean, reliable water. Failing, unapproved, and poorly maintained septic systems are disastrous to our water when bacteria and other pollutants leach out through poorly running systems into our groundwater and streams.

2. What you need to do

Operate an approved septic system

Most of us are alerted to a failing septic system when it smells. But it doesn't have to smell to tell. Septic systems are actually mini wastewater treatment plants, with homeowners serving as the operators. Just as we wouldn't allow any municipal wastewater treatment facility to operate below acceptable standards, homeowners must also operate approved systems. See reverse side for details.

Make sure your septic system is operating properly and is approved by Boulder County Public Health.

Check out our SepticSmart Do's and Don'ts page at www.SepticSmart.org/maintain.

DEFINITION

Fecal: *adjective*
Relating to waste or excrement

Matter: *noun*
Something of great importance; an issue to be taken seriously

YES, you bet it matters...

to your health, to your family, to your home, to our water, and to our community.



yes!

It's time to talk about fecal matters.