

Installation of a Septic System A-Z

What to expect from design, permitting and installation of a partial or full system.

*First things first, **limit your water usage** until the problem can be fixed to minimize the risk of septage backing up into your home or surfacing in your yard. You may need to pump your tank(s) every 1-2 weeks while going through the repair process.

Ready to start the process? Finding the right designer/engineer and contractor are key.

We are one of the only companies in Colorado that does the soils testing, designing, engineering, AND installation! It is important to do a site visit with the engineer to determine where the best place would be for your new component or system that takes into account all the required setbacks. Planning any additions to your home? Make sure to let them know so they can size your system appropriately!

The permitting process: Usually the longest part of the process (typically 1-3 weeks for Tri-County and Elbert County, and 3-6 weeks for Jefferson County).

***NOTE: Timing can vary depending on the county and time of year.**

- A down payment may be required to cover the cost of permitting and materials.
- Soils Tests (for an STA replacement, installation or expansion).
- Compiling the OWTS Permit Application. This can take between a few days to a couple of weeks, especially during the busy summer months.
- The application is submitted to the health department and the permit fee is paid.
- Once the application has been submitted, the county health department will do a Preliminary Site Visit, typically within 3 business days. They then review the design in depth and address any issues with the engineer/contractor.
- Utilities are located and marked, usually within 3 business days after being requested. They do not inform you when this will take place, but they will need access to the property. Make sure your pets are kept inside!
- Once the permit has been issued, it is time to schedule with the certified contractor.

How long does the work take? The time it takes to complete the project depends on what kind of work is being done, typically ranging from 1-5 business days (including construction, county inspection and backfill). A pressure dosed system takes longer to install than a gravity system due to the added components and complexity.

How will I be affected during construction? Typically, there is a period of 2-4 hours where water cannot be used while the new component(s) is being tied in. Even when utilities are located and marked, they are not 100% accurate and it is possible that something may be accidentally cut during excavation. If this happens, the repairs are made as quickly as possible. If there is irrigation in the area of the septic, sprinkler lines may be clipped during excavation. If this happens, the lines are repaired prior to backfill. There may be an additional cost associated with sprinkler line repairs.

What will my yard look like when the work is done? Ultimately, your yard will be mostly dirt, as there is a large amount of dirt that will be displaced for even the smallest repairs. A good backfill should be crowned some over the STA for drainage. Most septic companies do not offer re-landscaping. A landscaper will need to be hired to replace the landscaping, if desired. *It is important to know beforehand what kind of landscaping you can do over and around your septic system.