



**On-site Wastewater Treatment System (“OWTS”)  
2017 OWTS INSTALLERS RENEWAL TEST**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**If possible, please complete and return your Installers Renewal Test and fee by Feb. 28, 2017.**

Individuals must have a valid On-site Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Installers License, issued by San Juan Basin Public Health (SJBPH), to excavate, install, renovate, or repair an on-site wastewater treatment system. Businesses do not have an umbrella license for all employees. (See OWTS Regulation section 8.1. A)

A Homeowner intending to install one’s own system must complete the SJBPH’s Installers Training Course (see Section 8.1.A of the OWTS Regulations). Contractors seeking a license for the first time are required to complete the SJBPH’s Installers Training Course before his/her Installer’s License will be issued. SJBPH offers the Installers Training Course quarterly; dates for 2017 are as follows:

**January 27, April 28, July 28, October 27**

All classes will be held at the SJBPH Durango location from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Dates and times are subject to change. Please call (970) 335-2052 to register; advance scheduling is required.

Please use SJBPH’s On-site Wastewater Treatment System Regulations 2014 for the 2017 OWTS Installers Renewal Test. The On-site Wastewater Treatment System Regulations 2014 can be found on SJBPH’S website at [sjbpublichealth.org/septic-systems/](http://sjbpublichealth.org/septic-systems/).

If you have any questions regarding the 2017 OWTS Installers Renewal Test, please contact us at **(970) 335-2052** or send an email to: [environmentalhealth@sjbhd.org](mailto:environmentalhealth@sjbhd.org).

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Provide the definition (from the OWTS Regulations) for “On-site Wastewater Treatment System”:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. According to Section 5.1.A. (of the OWTS Regulations), a SJBPH OWTS permit is required to install, construct, enlarge, alter or repair an OWTS.

**TRUE**

**FALSE**

3. Once you have received the design from the engineer, you should:
- a. Begin construction as soon as your schedule allows
  - b. Only build the STA
  - c. Wait to hear from the PE that the design is authorized for construction
  - d. None of the above

4. According to Section 5.14.C (of the OWTS Regulations), an existing OWTS found to have been installed without a permit is considered to be “grandfathered” and a new permit application would not be required.

**TRUE**

**FALSE**

5. Once SJBPH has authorized construction of a system, you may begin installing immediately.

**TRUE**

**FALSE**

6. While excavating the Soil Treatment Area (STA), you encounter bedrock (which was NOT encountered in the profile pit). You should:
- a. Move the STA to a location closer to the profile pit that does NOT have bedrock.
  - b. Call the PE to inform of the problem and ask for direction.
  - c. Call the owner and tell them it is a huge problem.
  - d. Go home and take a nap. The bedrock may be gone tomorrow.

7. The definition of “*Leach field*” means the same as “*Soil Treatment Area*”.

**TRUE**

**FALSE**

8. Provide the required Minimum Horizontal Set-back Distance (in feet) between:

- a. Dwelling (house) → Septic Tank \_\_\_\_\_ feet
- b. Dwelling (house) → Soil Treatment Area Trench or Bed \_\_\_\_\_ feet
- c. Property line → Soil Treatment Area Trench or Bed \_\_\_\_\_ feet
- d. Potable water Cistern → Soil Treatment Area Trench or Bed \_\_\_\_\_ feet
- e. Well or Spring → Soil Treatment Area Trench or Bed \_\_\_\_\_ feet

9. Once you have completed installing the system and before you backfill, you should notify \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to schedule inspections.

10. You must contact SJBPH after you install and before you backfill a system.

**TRUE**                      **FALSE**

11. A “Systems Contractor” is also locally known as a “Licensed Installer”.

**TRUE**                      **FALSE**

12. Number the sequence of events in the correct order (1 – 7)

\_\_\_\_ Install the authorized OWTS design according to all Plans, specifications, and permit conditions. Have all solid sewer lines bedded, ready for cover, but not yet backfilled.

\_\_\_\_ Have a Site Evaluation (which may include a Percolation Test) conducted by either a Colorado Registered Professional Engineer or by SJBPH.

\_\_\_\_ After the Professional Engineer (if engineered) and/or SJBPH have inspected and approved the system installation, complete the backfilling, landscaping and surface diversion ditches as specified on the design, and seed and mulch. Contact the Professional Engineer (if engineered) or SJBPH (if required) for a final grade inspection.

\_\_\_\_ Carefully review the OWTS design and all permit conditions prior to any construction or installation. If the system was engineer-designed, coordinate all construction and installation activities and schedule inspections with the Professional Engineer. Contact the Professional Engineer or SJBPH if you have any questions.

\_\_\_\_ Get a copy of the OWTS permit once it is issued (with SJBPH’s Authorization to begin Construction signature) and either the Professional Engineer’s O.S.W.S. design or SJBPH’s OWTS design.

\_\_\_\_ Turn-in a completed OWTS permit application to the SJBPH – Durango Office with the property owner’s signature, a lot layout (plan) for the site, and the appropriate permit fees.

\_\_\_\_ Contact SJBPH (and the Professional Engineer) when construction of the OWTS has been completed but not yet backfilled requesting a Construction Inspection (at least 2 full working days prior notice is needed to schedule a SJBPH construction inspection).

13. According to Section 7.6.A.1 (on page 38 of the OWTS Regulations), a person commits a Colorado Class 1 petty offence if the person constructs, alters, installs any OWTS without first applying for and receiving a proper permit.

**TRUE**                      **FALSE**

14. According to Section 7.6.A.2 (of the OWTS Regulations), a person commits a Colorado Class 1 petty offence if the person constructs, alters, installs an OWTS in a manner which involves a knowing and material variation from the terms or specifications contained in the permit.

**TRUE**

**FALSE**

15. According to Section 7.6.A.4 (of the OWTS Regulations), a person commits a Colorado Class 1 petty offence if the person conducts a business as a systems contractor without having obtained a required license.

**TRUE**

**FALSE**

16. According to Section 5.7.E (of the OWTS Regulations), a Systems Contractor (Licensed Installer) has the authority to freely change the OWTS design specifications or system location or system orientation if site conditions warrant it.

**TRUE**

**FALSE**

17. According to Section 8.1.A (of the OWTS Regulations), no person shall excavate, install, construct, alter, or repair an OWTS unless he/she holds a valid Systems Contractor License issued by the Department.

**TRUE**

**FALSE**

18. According to Section 8.1.C (of the OWTS Regulations), list at least three (3) reasons why a System's Contractor's License may be suspended or revoked.

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19. According to Section 15.2.I (on page 73 of the OWTS Regulations), all new septic tanks must be equipped with an effluent screen (at the tank outlet).

**TRUE**

**FALSE**

20. The inlet port of a distribution box is higher than the outlet ports.

**TRUE**

**FALSE**

21. According to Section 8.1.A (of the OWTS Regulations), a Systems Contractor (Licensed Installer) will be required to attend the Department's Installer Training Course again if they fail to renew their license on an annual basis.

TRUE

FALSE

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**If possible, please complete and return your Installers Renewal Test and fee by Feb. 28, 2017.**

The OWTS Installer (Systems Contractor) **renewal fee is \$50** if you were licensed in 2016.

Please make a check payment payable to: **San Juan Basin Public Health**

A passing score for this Renewal Test is 85% correct or better. If you miss more than 3 questions, you will be required to re-attend SJBPH's Installer Training Course.

**Mail, e-mail or bring your completed Renewal Test and payment to:**

**San Juan Basin Public Health  
Environmental Health  
281 Sawyer Drive, Suite 300  
Durango, CO 81303**

or

**environmentalhealth@sjbhd.org**

**Reminders:**

- Contact SJBPH at (970) 335-2052 or email [environmentalhealth@sjbhd.org](mailto:environmentalhealth@sjbhd.org) to inform us when you are about to start the installation. This notification helps us coordinate timely inspections.
- Be sure to provide the OWTS Permit #, property owner's name, and address. Prior notification to SJBPH is required (see Section 5.12.B.1 of the OWTS Regulations).
- Do not change the OWTS design specifications or system location or orientation unless authorized by the Professional Engineer and SJBPH. All changes/approvals must be in writing (see Section 5.7.E of the OWTS Regulations).
- If your OWTS includes a siphon or a pump for dosing or pressure distribution, then a Pressure Test (head test) is required to verify uniform distribution and pressure. Unless specified differently in the design, distribution piping must be rotated so orifices are on top in the 12:00 o'clock position to conduct the Pressure Test. Remember not to glue the pipe joints or fittings until after the Pressure Test has been approved. If you have any questions regarding the pressure test, contact SJBPH at (970) 335-2053.