

**Warmer Temperatures =
Earlier Inspections
Please Have Paperwork On The
Jobsite By 5:00 a.m. On The Day Of
Your Scheduled Inspection**

QUESTIONS?

**PLEASE CONTACT PIMA COUNTY DEQ
SEPTIC INSPECTORS:**

CONVENTIONAL SYSTEMS:

(520) 740-2758 New telephone number
OR
(520) 740-2709 520-243-7400

ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS:

(520) 740-8310 New telephone number
520-243-7400

**ASK FOR AN ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM
PLAN REVIEWER**

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

www.deq.pima.gov/water/septics

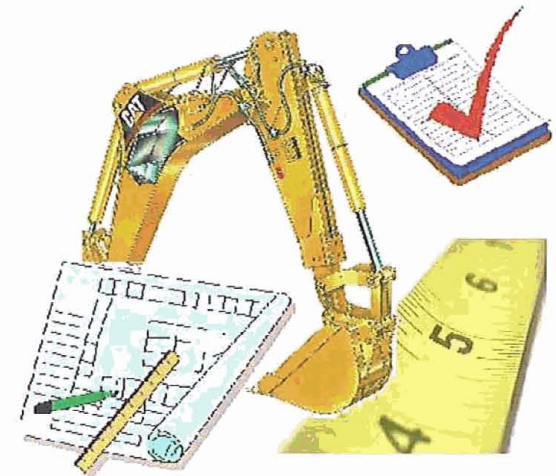
Hear-ye! Hear-ye!
PDEQ will soon be
using tri-colored
paper for the
inspection request
worksheet. The pink
copy will be left on
the job-site.

**Pima County
Department of Environmental Quality
150 W. Congress Street
Tucson, Az 85701-1317
Phone (520) 740-3340
FAX (520) 882-7709**

**PRESORTED
STANDARD
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PERMIT NO. 108**

CONTROLLING THE OUTCOME OF YOUR SEPTIC INSPECTION:

**GETTING IT RIGHT
THE FIRST TIME
EVERY TIME**



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March 2007

In PDEQ's continuing effort to assist and educate our customers, we would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few inspection issues:

Issue #1: Over excavating beyond the "MAX TRENCH DEPTH" indicated on the Construction Authorization.

If this happens, an engineer's design revision must be submitted to Pima County Development Services. It is important that site suitability issues be addressed per Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-9-A310(D).

Issue#2: The depth of cover over the aggregate is more than 2 feet and standard, thin-walled pipe is used.

A.A.C. R18-9-E302.C.2.c requires that Standard Dimensional Ratio (SDR) 35 or equivalent strength pipe be used if the depth of cover over the aggregate exceeds 2 feet.

Issue#3: The distribution pipes are not capped at the ends OR the end caps are not exposed at the time of the inspection.

A.A.C. R18-9-A312.B.4.c requires that distribution pipe ends be capped. In order to verify that pipes have end caps they must be visible for inspection.

Issue #4: The Watertightness Test is not conducted and/or the Certificate of Watertightness is not filled out prior to inspection.

A.A.C. R18-9-A314.5.d requires that the septic tank be tested for watertightness after installation and that it be repaired or replaced, if necessary. Avoid this mistake by conducting the Watertightness Test and by accurately filling out the Certificate of Watertightness. (A Watertightness Test is not required of projects with a Notice of Intent dated 11-12-05 or before.)

HOW TO CONDUCT A WATERTIGHTNESS TEST:

1. Fill the septic tank to the outlet.
2. Once filled, note the date and time on the Certificate of Watertightness on line 1 (see example below).
3. Allow the tank to soak for 24 hours.
4. After 24 hours has passed, refill the tank to the outlet and make a note of the water level. Fill in the date and time on line 2 (see example). This is the start of the field watertightness test.
5. After 1 hour has elapsed, look at the water level again. Fill in the date and time on line 3 (see example). This is the end of the field watertightness test.
6. Check the appropriate box indicating whether the tank passed the watertightness test without repair or if it passed the watertightness test following repair. NOTE: The tank passes if the water level does not drop over the 1-hour period.
7. Be sure the rest of the information, including the signature of the tester, is filled in on the Certificate of Watertightness.

EXAMPLE:

Watertightness Test Information

	Date	Time
1. Start 24-hour presoak with clean water	2-10-07	9:00am
2. Start of field watertightness test	2-11-07	9:00am
3. End of field watertightness test	2-11-07	10:00am

- Passed watertightness test without repair.
(no water drop over 1-hour period per A.A.C. R18-9-A314(5)(d)(ii))
- Passed watertightness test following repair.
Indicate repairs made:

NOTE: The watertightness test needs to be completed prior to inspection by Pima County DEQ!