



The Beginning Life and Design Principles of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

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The materials being presented represent the speaker's own opinions and do NOT reflect the opinions of NOWRA or NAWT.

The Designer's Purpose

- Provide a design for a system that will treat wastewater to protect human and environmental health.
- Onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS)
 - Treat the wastewater at the source location and disperse back into the environment.
- Design Approaches
- Permitting
- Installation
- Operation and Maintenance
 - By the owner and/or a maintenance provider.

System Definition



New System

- Permitting
 - Establishes **Minimum** Requirements
 - Provides checks and balances
 - Provides Long-term Records
 - Insures Proper Installation
 - Establishes Required Maintenance

New System Permitting Process

Site Evaluation

- **Gite Characteristics**
- Subsurface investigation
- Design
 - □ Source Loading~ Flow & Strength
 - System selection/sizing
 - Operation & Maintenance Requirements
- Reporting
 - Design Documents
 - Permit record
- Review & Approval by the Permitting Authority

Permits Continues

Operating Permits

- O&M Requirements
- **D** Testing Requirements

Title Transfer Permits

- Provide an opportunity to ensure the system is functioning properly
- Determine if the system sizing is still applicable.
- Changes is use are identified.

Design Process

- Wastewater Characteristics
- Site
 - Site evaluation
 - Soil characteristics
- System Choice
 - Pretreatment
 - Soil Treatment Area
- Risk
- System Care



Design Approach DETERMINE HYDRAULIC LOADING Residential • Standard • Deviations

CDPHE Regulation 43

Table 6-1 Single-F	amily Residential Desig	n Flows	
# Bedrooms	Occupancy (# of Persons)	Wastewater Flow Per Person (gallons/day)	Design Flow (gallons/day)
2	4	75	300
3	6	75	450
4	7	75	525
5	8	75	600
6	9	75	675

- Specific to County regulations
 - 75 gpd vs. 100 gpd per person
 - Could be 2 people per bedroom for all bedrooms
 - Check local regulations

Distribution of mean household daily per capita indoor water use for 1,188 data-logged homes (EPA 2002: Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Manual)



Mean Indoor Gallons Per Capita Per Day

- Water use varies widely from home to home
 - Distribution of mean indoor water use for the 1188 dwelling units included in the AWWARF study (EPA 2002 Fig 3-1)

Table 3-1. Summary of average daily residential wastewater flows^a

Study	Number of residences	Study duration (months)	Study average (gal/pers/day) ^b	Study range (gal/pers/day)
Brown & Caldwell (1984)	210		66.2 (250.6) ^b	57.3–73.0 (216.9–276.3) [▶]
Anderson & Siegrist (1989)	90	3	70.8 (268.0)	65.9–76.6 (249.4–289.9)
Anderson et al. (1993)	25	3	50.7 (191.9)	26.1–85.2 (98.9–322.5)
Mayer et al. (1999)	1188	1°	69.3 (262.3)	57.1–83.5 (216.1–316.1)
Weighted Average	153		68.6 (259.7)	

^a Based on indoor water use monitoring and not wastewater flow monitoring.

^b Liters/person/day in parentheses.

[°] Based on 2 weeks of continuous flow monitoring in each of two seasons at each home.

USEPA Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual

Avg. = 69.2 gpd per person

(2008 study of 17 households—45.2 gpd per person

Deviations

- Ask about "unusual" uses
 - Daycare
 - Short Term Rental
 - Other non-residential uses
- Water use records
- Especially important with repairs of failed systems.
 - Leaking Fixtures
 - Heavy water use

Design Approach DETERMINE HYDRAULIC LOADING

Commercial

- Regulation
- Tables
- Metered Flows
 - Operational Facility
 - Comparable Facilities

CDPHE Reg 43

TABLE 6-2 For Design Purposes, the Estimated Daily Wastewater Flow and BOD₅ Load Per Person Unless Otherwise Noted

RESIDENTIAL WASTEWATER	GPD	BOD₅ IN POUNDS PER DAY
Single-family dwellings	75	.20
Auxiliary buildings, by fixture type		
Bath/Shower	14.7	.014
Dishwasher	1.8	.002
Kitchen sink with garbage grinder	5.8	.052
Laundry washer	19.5	.037
Lavatory	8.4	.021
Water closet (toilet)	24.8	.029
Hotels and motels per room	75	.15
Multiple-family dwellings or apartments	75	.20
Boarding and rooming houses (users absent during working	50	.15
hours)		
Tiny Homes ³ , per unit	150	.40
Mobile home	75	.20
Mobile home park per space	300	.80

CDPHE Reg 43

TABLE 6-2 For Design Purposes, the Estimated Daily Wastewater Flow and BOD₅ Load Per Person Unless Otherwise Noted

COMMERCIAL WASTEWATER	GPD	BOD₅ IN POUNDS PER DAY
Facilities with short-term or transient visitors		
Examples: Airports or bus stations per passenger; fairgrounds per person attending; ball parks, race tracks, stadiums, theaters or auditoriums per seat	5	.02
Airport per employee	10	.06
Barber and beauty shops per chair	100	.70 ¹
Bowling alleys per lane - toilet wastes only	5	.03 ¹
Country club per member	30	.02
County club per employee	20	.06
Dentist offices per non-wet chair	50	.14 ¹
Doctor offices per doctor	250	.80 ¹
Factories and plants exclusive of industrial wastewater per employee per eight-hour shift – no showers	20	.05
Factories and plants exclusive of industrial wastewater per employee per eight-hour shift - showers provided	35	.08
Kennels per dog	30	.20
Laundries, self-service per commercial washer	400	.75
Office buildings per employee per eight-hour shift	15	.06
Service stations per toilet fixture	250	.50 ¹
Stores and shopping centers per square foot of retail space	.1	.01 ¹
Work or construction camps semi-permanent with flush toilets	50	.17
Work or construction camps semi-permanent without flush toilets	35	.02

Reference Tables

 Table 3.12. Average daily water use rates from commercial and institutional developments (Crews and Miller 1983).

Туре	Unit	gal/day per unit	Туре	Unit	gal/day per unit
Barber shops	Chairs	54.6	Drive-in movies	Car stall	5.33
Beauty shops	Station	269	Nursing homes	Bed	133
Bus/rail depots	ft ²	3.33	New office buildings	ft ²	0.19
Car washes	Inside ft ²	4.78	Old office buildings	ft ²	0.14
Churches	Member	0.14	Jails and prisons	Person	133
Golf/swim clubs	Member	22.20	Restaurants	Seat	24.2
Bowling alleys	Alley	133	Drive-in restaurants	Car stall	109
Residential colleges	Student	106	Night clubs Person serv		1.33
Hospitals	Bed	346	Retail space Sale ft ²		0.11
Hotels	ft ²	0.26	Elementary schools	Student	3.83
Laundromats	ft ²	2.17	High schools	Student	8.02
Laundry	ft ²	0.25	YMCA/YWCA	Person	33.3
Medical offices	ft ²	0.62	Service stations	Inside ft ²	0.25
Motels	ft ²	0.22	Theaters	Seat	3.33

*Reference: Decentralized Water Reclamation Engineering – A Curriculum Workbook, Robert Siegrist 2017

Metered Flows

- Obtain Flows from an existing or similar facility
 - Potable water use data (consumptive use)
 - ETM, dose counter (account for drain back)
 - Magnetic flow meter (effluent in full pipe)
 - Ultrasonic flow meter (influent flow)

Measuring the Flow

- Control panels can include a dose counter (CT) and/or an elapsed time meter (ETM)
- Operator or owner must record data on pre-established frequency (daily, weekly, monthly)







Gallons per inch

Design Approach DETERMINE ORGANIC LOADING Residential • Wastewater strengths typically assumed

Deviations

Organic Loading - Residential

Raw Wastewater – Regulation 43

TABLE 6-2 Estimate of Average Daily Wastewater Flow and BOD ₅ Load Per Person Unless Otherwise Noted			
RESIDENTIAL	WASTEWATER	AVERAGE GPD	BOD₅ IN POUNDS PER DAY
Single-family d	lwellings	75	.20

*Reference: CPDHE Regulation 43

CDPHE Regulation 43 assumes an influent BOD5 = 318 mg/L

Raw Wastewater – Research Data

Table 3.14. Comparison of properties commonly of interest in wastewaters generated in DUs in the U.S. (from Lowe et al. 2009).

Constituent	Unite	Lowe et al. 2009		USEPA 2002	C&T 1998
Constituent	Onits	Median	Range	Range	Range
Alkalinity	mg-CaCO ₃ /L	260	65 - 575	Not rept.	Not rept.
TS	mg/L	1028	252 - 3320	500 - 880	350 - 1200
TSS	mg/L	232	22 - 1690	155 - 330	100 - 350
cBOD ₅	mg/L	420	112 - 1101	155 - 286	110 - 400
COD	mg/L	849	139 - 4584	500 - 660	250 - 1000
тос	mg/L	184	35 - 738	Not rept.	80 - 290
DOC	mg/L	110	29 - 679	Not rept.	Not rept.
Total N	mg-N/L	60	9 - 240	26 - 75	20 - 85
Kjeldahl N	mg-N/L	57	16 - 248	Not rept.	Not rept.
Ammonium N	mg-N/L	14	2 - 94	4 - 13	12 - 50
Nitrate N	mg-N/L	1.9	BDL - 9	<1	0
Total P	mg-P/L	10.4	0.2 - 32	6 - 12	4 - 15

WERF = Water Environment Research Foundation; USEPA = U.S. Environmental Prot. Agency; C&T = Crites and Tchobanoglous. Source: Table 3-7 in Lowe et al. 2009.

*Reference: Decentralized Water Reclamation Engineering – A Curriculum Workbook, Robert Siegrist 2017

Design Approach DETERMINE ORGANIC LOADING Commercial Regulation Estimates from tables Wastewater Sampling Operational Facility

Comparable Facilities

Variability in Commercial Facilities

High Strength Waste

- Increased organic matter, fats, oils, and grease
- Determine Mass Loading for Design, lbs of BOD per day
- Cleaning Products
- Pharmaceuticals

Commercial Establishments

Table 3.16. Wastewater composition determined through monitoring at 14 commercial and institutional sites in Colorado (Conn 2008).

Constituent	Units	Average	Median	Minimum	Maximum	Number
Alkalinity	mg-CaCO₃/L	390	410	20	75	40
рН	-	6.80	6.78	4.92	8.69	40
cBOD ₅	mg/L	430	320	80	1200	27
тос	mg/L	100	89	33	340	25
DOC	mg/L	87	77	21	230	25
Total N	mg-N/L	100	92	6	190	25
Ammonium N	mg-N/L	99	87	4	210	26
Nitrate N	mg-N/L	1.9	1.4	<0.5	9.5	24
Total P	mg-P/L	17	16	1.7	37	26
Fecal coliforms	CFU per 100mL	4. 19x10 ⁶	6.75x10⁵	1.50x10 ⁵	3.34x10 ⁷	12

Source: Table 4-1 in Conn 2008. Nonresidential source types include commercial (2 restaurants, 1 bakery, 2 convenience stores, 3 retail) and institutional (2 schools, 1 church, 3 veterinary hospitals). Grab samples were taken at the inlet to the septic tanks at each site. Each site was sampled 3 times.

S3.42

*Reference: Decentralized Water Reclamation Engineering – A Curriculum Workbook, Robert Siegrist DRAFT 2015

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Regulatory Table

TABLE 6-2 For Design Purposes, the Estimated Daily Wastewater Flow and BOD₅ Load Per Person Unless Otherwise Noted

FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT	GPD	BOD₅ IN POUNDS PER DAY
Restaurant open 1 or 2 meals per seat	50	.06/meal
24-hour restaurant per seat	75	.07/meal served
Restaurant with paper service only per seat	25	.01/meal served
Additional for bars and cocktail lounges per seat	30	.02
Drive-in restaurant per car space	50	.02
INSTITUTIONAL WASTEWATER WITHOUT KITCHENS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED	GPD	BOD₅ IN POUNDS PER DAY
Churches per seat; without any food service, or other uses	3.5	.01
Churches, per seat; warming kitchen only, no major food service	5	.01
Churches, per seat; with food service, per meal served ⁴	4	.02
Hospitals per bed space	250	.20
Nursing homes; Group homes for developmentally disabled, per bed space	125	.20
Schools, Boarding per person	100	.17
Schools, Day without cafeteria, gym or showers	15	.04
Schools, Day with cafeterias, no gym or showers	20	.08
Schools, Day with cafeterias, gym and showers	25	.10
Schools, Day additional for school workers	15	.06

Organic Loading Calculations

- Mass Loading Example 1
- Assume an office building with 30 employees
 - Q = (30 people) X (0.06 pounds per person)
 - Table 6-2 Reg. 43
 - Mass Loading = 1.8 pounds per day
 - 482 mg/L
- This is used to design the pre-treatment system

Organic Loading Calculations

- Mass Loading Example 2
- Mass Loading Equation

– Mass (lb) = Q gpd x C mg/l x 0.0000834

- Assume an office building with 30 employees
 - Q = (30 people) X (15 gpd per person) = 450 GPD
 - Table 6-2 Reg. 43
 - Mass Loading = (450 GPD) X (350 mg/l BOD similar facilities) X 0.00000834 = 1.3 pounds per day
- This is used to design the pre-treatment system

Non-Residential STE Composition

• Average composition of total wastewater STE (EPA 2002 Table 4-12)

Wastewater Type	BOD₅ (mg/L)	COD (mg/L)	TSS (mg/L)	TKN (mgN/L)	TP (mgP/L)	Oil/Grease (mg/L)	Temp (°C)	рН
Restaurant A	582	1196	187	82	24	101	8–22	5.6-6.4
Restaurant B	245	622	65	64	14	40	8–22	6.6-7.0
Restaurant C	880	1667	372	71	23	144	13–23	5.8-6.3
Restaurant D	377	772	247	30	15	101	16–21	5.7-6.8
Restaurant E	693	1321	125	78	28	65	4–26	5.5-6.9
Restaurant F	261	586	66	73	19	47	7–25	5.8-7.0
Motel	171	381	66	34	20	45	20–28	6.5-7.1
Country Club A	197	416	56	36	13	24	6–20	6.5-6.8
Country Club B	333	620	121	63	17	46	13–26	6.2-6.8
Country Club C	101	227	44	36	10	33	10–23	6.2-7.4
Bar/Grill	179	449	79	61	7	49	8–22	6.0-7.0

Table 4-12. Average septic tank effluent concentrations of selected parameters from various commercial establishments

* Averages based on 2 to 9 grab samples depending on the parameter taken between March and September 1983.

Source: Siegrist et al., 1985.

USEPA Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual

Wastewater Sampling

- Sampling of the wastewater from an existing facility to determine organic loading
 - BOD5
 - TSS
 - FOG
- Grab samples from last compartment of septic tank/dosing tank.
- How many samples do you need?

Design Approach



Collection & Storage

- Piping from facility with cleanout
 - Blackwater
 - Graywater
- Holding tanks
- Exciting Plumbing
 - Composting Toilets
 - Incinerating Toilets



Pretreatment Components

- Grease Interceptor Tank for Commercial Kitchens
- Septic Tank Primary Treatment
- Effluent Screens
- Higher Level Treatment





Pretreatment Components

- Septic tanks*
- Aerobic treatment units
- Media filters
- MBR



Site Evaluation

- Conduct a site evaluation
 - What are the environmental risks?
 - Consider regulatory setback requirements.
 - Where can the system be located?



Information Resources

- County Mapping Website
- National Wetlands Inventory
- https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html
- County Assessors Office/Website
- County Records Office
- Site Survey or ILC
- State Well Records
 - Colorado Department of Natural Resources
 - https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/WellPermits







U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory

Wetlands





This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wellands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wretands Mapper web site.

Assessors Records

Land Valuation Summary

Account Number	Land Type	Unit of Measure	Number of Units
R0077411	Residential	Acres	6.3888
Land Subtotal:			

Built As:	Split Level
Year Built:	1979
Building Type:	Residential
Construction Type:	Frame Masonry Veneer
Built As SQ Ft:	3444
Number of Rooms:	9
Number of Baths:	5.00
Number of Bedrooms:	5
Attached Garage SQ Ft:	2088
Detached Garage Square Ft:	
Basement SQ Ft:	1204
Finished Basement SQ Ft:	

ILC Drawing





Site Survey

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Well Permits

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COLORADO'S



Decision Support Systems (https://dwr.state.co.us/tods/) CWCB / DWR



Well Permits (/Tools/WellPermits)

DWR Home (https://dwr.colorado.gov/) CDSS Home (https://cdss.colorado.gov/) Dashboard (/Tools/Home)

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Reconnaissance Visit

Site Surface Features Assessment:

- Slope [%, Shape]
- Vegetation
- Natural & Cultural Features:
 - Existing Drainage Patterns
 - Surface Water
 - Streams, Ponds, Irrigation Ditches
 - If unlined irrigation ditch; check effects on seasonal high groundwater
 - Buried Utilities

Reconnaissance Visit Site Surface Features Assessment:

Slope Shape

Table 5-6. SWIS siting potential vs. landscape position features

Landscape position	SWIS siting potential	Comments					
LC VC CC	Poor	Converging flows could overload SWIS hydraulically					
LV VV CV	Fair	Might not be able to add additional trench length later					
LL VL CL	Best	Parallel flow across SWIS provides best siting potential					

Figure 5-6. Landscape position features (see table 5-6 for siting potential)

Slope Shape - Slope shape is described in two directions: up and down slope (perpendicular to the contour), and across slope (along the horizontal contour); e.g., *linear, convex, or LV*.



Hillslope - Profile Position (Hillslope Position in PDP) - Twodimensional descriptions of parts of line segments (slope position) along a transect that runs up and down the slope; e.g., *backslope* or *BS*. This is best applied to transects or points, not areas.



Fisheries Structure





Reconnaissance Visit

- Wells & Cisterns
- Buildings
- Improvements
- Property lines
- Existing STA
- Cut banks
- Fill areas
- Corrals

- Improved areas
- Interceptor drains
- Restrictions & setbacks
- Review areas for new STA
- Review areas for components
- Review proposed improvements characteristics
 - Existing Drainage Patterns

Upgrade & Repair Considerations

- Why did the system fail?
- Check functionality of existing system
 - Inspection report
- Records of existing OWTS
- MLS listing
- Additions
- Changes in use
- Is there adequate electrical power?
- Adequate breakers?



Preliminary Soils Information

- Preliminary Soils Information
- USDA NRCS Soil Survey
 - <u>https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.u</u> <u>sda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.</u> <u>aspx</u>
- Geological Maps, USGS
 - <u>https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmd</u>
 <u>b/ngmdb_home.html</u>
- Existing records
 - Geotechnical report
 - Past reports repair
 - Neighboring reports



Subsurface Investigation

- Do a subsurface investigation in the area of the proposed soil treatment area.
- Evaluate soil profile test pit excavations, log soils, take samples.
- Does County Health Dept. need to observe holes?
- If holes are to be left open, secure them for safety.
- If percolation testing, load holes, comply with procedures, return after presoak period.

Subsurface Investigation





		SOI	L OBSERV/	ATION LOG				
Client/Addr	ess:		Legal De	escription			Da	te:
Soil Parent Notes:	Material(s) (Circle all that apply):	Till Out	wash La	acustrine Alluv	rium Loess	s Orga	nic Matter	Bedrock
Landscape	Position (Circle one) : Sun	nmit Back	/Side slope	Foot Slope	Toe Slope	Slop)e	
Vegetation:			Soil Surve	y Map Unit(s):			Slop	e (%):
Weather C	onditions/Time of Day:		Location/Obs	ervation #/Method:			Eleva	tion:
Depth (in)	Texture	Rock Frag%	Matrix color(s) Mottle color(s)	Redox Kind(s)	Shape	Grade	Consistence
					Concentrations Depletions Gleyed	Granular Platy Blocky Prismatic Single Grain Massive	Weak Moderate Strong Loose	Loose Friable Firm Extremely Firm Rigid
					Concentrations Depletions Gleyed	Granular Platy Blocky Prismatic Single Grain Massive	Weak Moderate Strong Loose	Loose Friable Firm Extremely Firm Rigid
					Concentrations Depletions Gleyed	Granular Platy Blocky Prismatic Single Grain Massive	Weak Moderate Strong Loose	Loose Friable Firm Extremely Firm Rigid
					Concentrations Depletions Gleyed	Granular Platy Blocky Prismatic Single Grain Massive	Weak Moderate Strong Loose	Loose Friable Firm Extremely Firm Rigid
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					Concentrations Depletions Gleyed	Granular Platy Blocky Prismatic Single Grain Massive	Weak Moderate Strong Loose	Loose Friable Firm Extremely Firm Rigid

https://www.cpow.net/publications-research/

Soil Texture Triangle



Subsurface Investigation

- Is the soil a suitable treatment media?
- Are there limiting conditions?
- Is it suitable to meet treatment goals or do we need to add a higher level treatment system?



Rock Content



Soil Treatment Area

- How much *infiltrative surface area* do we need?
- How should it be configured to accommodate site conditions?
 - To provide better treatment
 - To last longer
 - Consider Contour Loading Rate



Final Treatment and Dispersal Components



- Soil Treatment Area (STA)
 - Trench and bed geometry
 - Distribution options
 - Gravity
 - Pressure
 - Mound
 - Gravel
 - Manufactured Media
 - Drip Tubing

Operation & Maintenance (O&M)

- What it takes to work
- Taking care of the system



Service Provider



Management plans

- All Systems
- Homeowner O&M
- Professional O&M
- Frequency of O&M
- Monitoring with Operating Permit
- WEB tools for owners & service providers
 - <u>www.h2oandm.com</u>
 - Online RME

Operation & Maintenace

- Make all the components accessible for inspection and servicing.
- Outline Maintenance Requirements in Design Documents.
- Educate the homeowner/user on do's and don'ts
- Require a service contract.
- With routine maintenance, the system should last 30, 40, 50+ years.



Monitoring

- What is going to be checked?
- How often will it be checked?
- Required performance
 - When is it "Working"?
 - When is it "Broke"?



What should be monitored?

 Flow- Use
 Problems
 Identified in the Operating Permit



Components

Changes set O&M TimingExamples:

- Smaller orifices in distribution laterals
 - Increase plugging
 - Shorter cleaning frequency
- Screens and Filters

Technology

- Different technology has different care frequency
- ATU ~ Septic tank
 6 months 3 years
- Septic tank ~ Effluent Screen
 3 years < 3 years

Operating Permits

- Relationship to regulator
- Monitoring requirements
- Process
 - Submittals
 - Timing
 - System performance
 - Pass/Fail
 - Enforcement

Questions?

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www.cpow.net

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