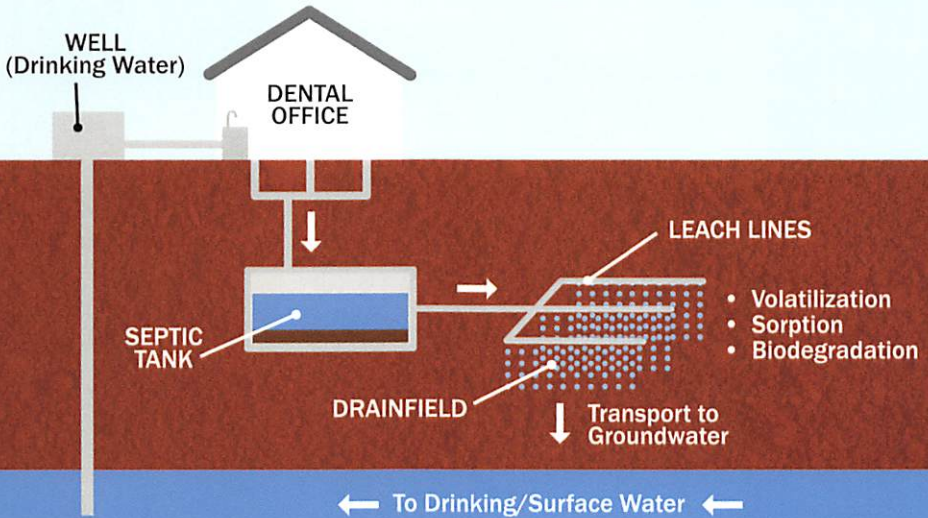


Dental Offices with On-site Septic Systems



What Can Go to an On-site Septic System

On-site septic systems are generally only designed to handle sanitary domestic wastewaters from bathrooms, kitchens, or laundry devices.

What Cannot Go to an On-site Septic System

On-site septic systems are not designed to handle:

- *stormwater drainage,*
- *wastewater from roof or foundation drains,*
- *wastewaters from water softening devices, or*
- *wastewaters from industrial or commercial operations, including common dental wastes like dental amalgam wastewaters (treated and untreated), medications, blood, or x-ray fluids.*

These types of discharges are considered non-domestic, industrial operational discharges that, if disposed to an on-site system, may contaminate your property, result in exposure to contaminants, or cause your on-site system to prematurely fail.



Local health departments regulate residential sanitary wastewater systems according to the local county code and state law. For information on the local regulations for on-site septic systems, contact your local health department using the directory available at www.malph.org/directory.

How These Unwanted Materials Should be Handled

Dental offices that generate less than 20 gallons of commercially-generated (operational) wastewaters monthly can ship the medical wastewaters to a permitted recycling location using a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permitted and registered, liquid industrial by-products hauler or licensed septage hauler. Locations generating more than this may be subject to stricter hazardous waste regulations. To learn more about the hazardous waste regulations, view the recorded Webinars in the DEQ's *Introduction to Hazardous Waste Webinar Series* at www.michigan.gov/deqwaste.

Additional Information

To learn more about the state regulations related to dental wastes, see the DEQ resources at the Websites below, discuss your waste needs with your waste vendor, and/or call the Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278:

- www.michigan.gov/deqonsitewastewater
- www.michigan.gov/deqdrugdisposal
- www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste

Different regulations apply when discharging to local wastewater treatment plants. For information on discharges to a waste water treatment plant, discuss your waste needs with your waste vendor and/or contact your local wastewater treatment plant using the directory available at: www.mi-wea.org/facilities_list.php and/or call the Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278.

NOT OK

Dental Amalgam Separator Waste (solids and liquids)

Medications

Dental Procedure Wastewaters

Medical Waste

X-Ray Solutions



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

11/13/18 Per Kurt @ Antaw Qwert
we are 100% compliant - we have
STATE OF MICHIGAN
a containment system

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



C. HEIDI GRETHER
DIRECTOR

TO: Rural Medical Waste Producers

FROM: Jeremy W. Hoeh, Supervisor
Environmental Health Programs Unit
Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division

Jeremy W. Hoeh

Andrew L. Shannon, Environmental Quality Specialist
Medical Waste Regulatory Program
Waste Management and Radiological Protection Division

Andrew L. Shannon

DATE: October 29, 2018

SUBJECT: Facility Wastewater Disposal Requirements and On-site Wastewater Systems

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received multiple inquiries from regulated facilities and professional associations concerning commercially-generated (operational) wastewaters that are commingled with domestic (sanitary) wastewater at rural sites using on-site wastewater systems (commonly called septic systems) for discharge. On-site wastewater systems typically include septic tanks and soil dispersal systems. The specific inquiries the DEQ received have focused on facilities that generate medical and related discharges from the commercial (operational) activities, as well as regulatory concerns associated with these activities and the potential for environmental pollution. The commingling of domestic (sanitary) wastewater and any commercially-generated (operational) wastewater intended for discharge/treatment by a shared on-site wastewater system is prohibited.

Domestic (sanitary) wastewater discharge lines or piping and commercial (operational) wastewater discharge lines or piping require physical separation within the establishment, and the plumbing must remain isolated during discharge from the facility. Any domestic (sanitary) wastewater generated (restrooms, employee breakrooms, etc.) may continue to be treated by an approved on-site wastewater system designed in accordance with the Michigan Criteria for Subsurface Sewage Disposal or the local health department regulations, if appropriate. However, any commercially-generated (operational) wastewater will require diversion to a sealed holding tank or other mechanism approved for use by the DEQ. In instances where holding tanks are used, the diverted wastewater in the holding tank must be managed to meet the medical waste regulations. See the enclosed *Medical Waste Pocket Reference* and the *Dental Offices with On-site Septic System Guide* and the *Funeral Homes with On-site Septic System Guide* for more information; visit our Medical Waste Web page at www.michigan.gov/deqmedwaste to find vendors who can assist with proper recycling or disposal of your commercially-generated (operational) wastewaters.

Facility Wastewater Disposal Requirements and On-site Wastewater Systems

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Commingling commercially-generated (operational) wastewater with domestic (sanitary) wastewater may pollute surface and drinking water via groundwater contamination from sources such as medical waste, mercury, formaldehyde, and pharmaceuticals. The functionality of a septic tank and soil dispersal system can also be compromised due to the addition of hazardous constituents that may both pollute the groundwater and destroy the biological components of the system that process the waste.

Your local health department or professional membership organization may have resources to help you locate alternative recycling or disposal options. For onsite issues/questions, please contact Mr. Jeremy Hoeh at 517-284-6528; hoehj@michigan.gov; or DEQ, Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance Division, P.O. Box 30817, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8311. For medical waste issues/questions please contact Mr. Andrew Shannon at 517-230-9800; shannona1@michigan.gov; or DEQ, State Office Building, 5th Floor, 350 Ottawa Avenue, NW, Unit 10, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503.

Enclosures

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