

**Westchester County Health Department
Rules & Regulations**

Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Remediations and Repairs

**Adopted by the Commissioner
Pursuant to
Article II, Section 873.203.2 of
Chapter 873 of the Laws of Westchester County**

Effective Date November 7, 2008

- No person shall undertake to remediate an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) failure, or impending failure, without first having obtained the written approval from the commissioner. This shall not apply to repairs of OWTS components.
- Advanced Alternative designs may be considered for the complete replacement of an OWTS, and only for the complete replacement of an OWTS, on difficult sites that will not support conventional OWTS designs currently specified in Westchester County Department of Health (WCDH) Rules & Regulations.
- Upon failure of any OWTS, repairs may be performed without Department approval.
- Upon continued failure of any OWTS, it shall be replaced, repaired, remediated and/or rehabilitated, to the extent possible, in accordance with design standards currently set forth in WCDH Rules & Regulations. However, if the Department determines, based upon the application submitted, that such replacement, repair, remediation and/or rehabilitation cannot comply with such design standards, the applicant shall cooperate with the Department to determine the most suitable location and design for the OWTS. This may require the complete replacement of the OWTS with an Advanced Alternative design on a difficult site.
- Upon failure of any OWTS, the Department may require the property owner to agree to a regular schedule for the evacuation of OWTS components to supplement OWTS replacement, repair, remediation and/or rehabilitation.
- Remediation of an OWTS that involves relocating, extending or expanding an absorption area to a location not previously approved by the Department for such use, or the complete replacement of an OWTS, shall require a site evaluation by a Licensed Professional Engineer or Registered Architect, consisting of soil percolation tests and deep test hole excavations to be witnessed by Department staff.
- A Licensed Professional Engineer or Registered Architect, registered to practice in the State of New York, shall be required for applications to the Department for:
 - Remediation of an OWTS that involves relocating, extending or expanding an absorption area to a location not previously approved by the Department for such use
 - The complete replacement of an OWTS
 - Remediation of an OWTS, where repairs can not or did not correct an OWTS failure
 - Use of Advanced Alternative OWTS designs
 - Any remediation of an OWTS requiring design plans and/or a site evaluation
- A Licensed Septic System Contractor may submit applications to the WCDH for:
 - Remediation of an OWTS that only involves installation of new absorption trenches within areas previously approved by the WCDH for such use.