



Fact Sheet

Operation and maintenance requirements

All Alternative Treatment Technology, ATT, onsite wastewater treatment systems in Oregon are required to be maintained by a DEQ-certified maintenance provider. The same requirement is needed for all sand filter and pressure distribution onsite systems permitted on or after Jan. 1, 2014.

Maintenance provider's responsibilities

Maintenance providers are required to submit an annual maintenance report to local agent and pay the annual report evaluation fee on behalf of their customers.

Additionally, maintenance providers are required to:

- Observe and record conditions in the drainfield during all operation and maintenance activities for the system and report those observations to the system owner.
- Make necessary repairs or alterations that comply with Oregon Administrative Rules.
- Make emergency service available within 48 hours of a service request.
- Notify local agent within 30 days of service agreement termination or expiration if the agreement is terminated or not renewed.
- Be certified by the ATT manufacturer to provide service on their product (ATT systems only).

Property owner's responsibilities

The owner of these types of systems listed above is responsible for paying for and maintaining a service agreement with a DEQ-certified maintenance provider for the life of the system, allowing timely maintenance, and properly operating the system. If the property owner fails to maintain a continuous service agreement with a DEQ-certified maintenance provider, the owner may be responsible for submitting the annual fee and report. Initial service agreement: A two-year service agreement with a DEQ-certified maintenance provider is required with the permit application and before a permit is issued. These actions ensure the system does not cause a public health hazard or pollute public waters.

This includes:

- Obtaining and sustaining a service agreement.
 - *Initial service agreement:* A two-year service agreement with a DEQ-certified maintenance provider is required with the permit application and before a permit is issued.
 - *Subsequent service agreements:* After that initial agreement ends, the property owner must hold a valid, current service agreement with a DEQ-certified maintenance provider for the life of the onsite system. These contracts can be ongoing or termed contracts.
 - *Transfer of ownership:* If property ownership changes, the new owner must sign a transfer of

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contract agreement with the maintenance provider or obtain a new service agreement.

- Allowing maintenance providers safe access to the system and all components.
- Following maintenance provider recommendations for proper usage.
- Ensuring necessary repairs to the system and its components are completed by licensed installer or certified maintenance provider.

Why is this required?

These types of systems are often located on small lots, on challenging soils, or in sensitive environments, such as near water bodies or shallow water tables. Depending on the system design, they have filters, blowers, pressurized pipes and tanks that accumulate solids. These system components need service or replacement to maintain the system performance to provide as clean a discharge as possible for a long time. This is similar to maintaining a vehicle where regular maintenance and upkeep can help prevent pre-mature and costly repairs in the future.

Oregon Administrative Rules

There are several Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) regarding onsite wastewater treatment system operation and maintenance. The information provided in this handout references and is applicable to the following rules:

OAR 340-071-0130(13) Operation and maintenance

OAR 340-071-0130(17) Annual permit fees and reports

OAR 340-071-0130(23) Service Contracts

OAR 340-071-0130(24) Maintenance providers under contract

OAR 340-071-0275(6) Pressure distribution service contracts

OAR 340-071-0290(7) Sand filter operation and maintenance

OAR 340-071-0345(12) ATT operation and maintenance standards

OAR 340-071-0345(14) ATT service contracts

The complete Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 340, is available online from the DEQ at ordeq.org/septicrules.

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