

Septic System Installation



— AND —

Construction Permit Requirements in North Dakota

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All septic systems in North Dakota must conform with provisions contained in chapter 16 of the state plumbing code. This chapter outlines basic requirements regarding design, siting and construction materials.

Local health units may develop their own set of rules and regulations regarding septic systems, but these rules must meet the minimum requirements outlined in the state plumbing code. However, local units can adapt some requirements that are more stringent than the state plumbing code.

Local health units **with** environmental health services assume responsibility for enforcement of the septic system codes, whether they are local rules or the state code. Local health units **without** environmental health

services available and counties with no health unit must have septic system complaints and code violations inspected by either the North Dakota Department of Health or an inspector hired on contract. Many counties contract with a local health unit with sanitarians for inspections. However, not all local health units with qualified inspectors participate in providing this service.

At the county level, it is sometimes difficult to find the rules and requirements for septic systems and whether they are administered locally. Some counties belong to health districts that have their own set of septic system rules and regulations and some do not. Some health districts have personnel that do onsite inspections for septic systems and some do not. Some health districts require permits for installation, licenses for septic system installers, and inspections before closure during construction and some do not. The differences across the state can be very confusing, thus the purpose of this circular.

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NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE

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There are five types of local health units in North Dakota. There are multi-county health districts, single county health districts, a city-county health district partnership, a city-county health department, and single county health departments. There is a difference between a health district and a health department. Health districts are governed by a local health board with tax levy

authority. It is separate from the county commission board and has its own budget. A county health department reports to the county commission and its budget is part of the county budget. The geographic boundaries of the local health units in North Dakota are shown in figure 1. The septic system requirements for each health unit are in table 1.

Figure 1. Local Public Health Departments

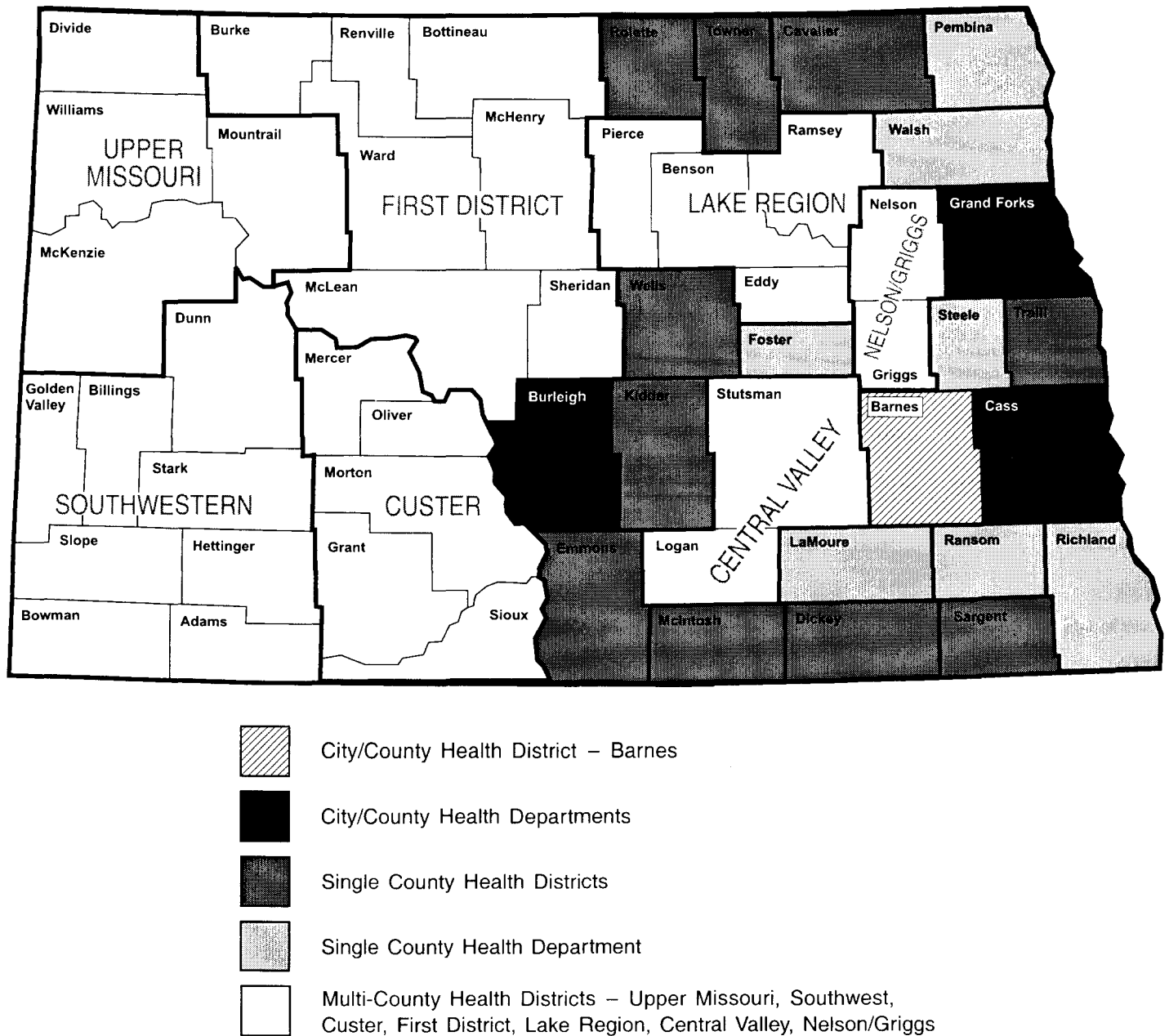


Table 1. Services and septic system requirements of health units in North Dakota.

| Name | Counties | Environmental Health Services? | Septic Permits Required, Fee? | Perform a Mortgage Inspection, Fee? | Installer License Required, Fee? | Installer CEUs Required? | Design Septic Systems? |
|--|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Multi-County Health Districts — | | | | | | | |
| Upper Missouri | Divide, Williams Mountrail, McKenzie | Yes | Yes, \$100 | Yes | Yes, \$25/year | Yes | Yes |
| Southwestern | Golden Valley, Stark/Billings, Dunn, Slope, Hettinger, Bowman, Adams | Yes | Yes, \$55 | Yes, \$55 ¹ | No | No | No |
| Custer | Mercer, Oliver, Morton, Grant, Sioux | Yes | Yes, \$25 | Yes, \$30 ¹ | Yes, \$50 | No | Yes |
| First District | Burke, Renville, Ward, Bottineau, McHenry, McLean, Sheridan | Yes | Yes, \$50 | Yes, \$30 ¹ | Yes, \$65/year | Yes | Yes |
| Lake Region | Pierce, Benson, Ramsey, Eddy | Yes | Yes, \$100 | Yes | Yes, \$15/year | Yes | Yes |
| Central Valley | Stutsman, Logan | Yes | Yes, \$50 | Yes, \$30 ¹ | No | Yes | No |
| Nelson/Griggs | Nelson, Griggs | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| City/County Health Districts or Departments — | | | | | | | |
| Cass | | Yes | Yes, \$50 | Yes | Yes, \$100 | Yes | No |
| Burleigh | | Yes | Yes, \$50, \$150 ² | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| Grand Forks | | Yes | No | No | No | No | No |
| Barnes | | Yes | Yes, \$50 | Yes, \$30 ¹ | No | Yes | No |

¹ If inspection requested

² Absorption Bed system, \$50 permit fee; Trench system with soil analysis, \$150 permit fee

| County | Environmental Health Services? | Septic Permits Required, Fee? | Inspection Required, Fee? | Installer License Required, Fee? | Installer CEUs Required? |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Single County Health Districts — | | | | | |
| Cavalier | No | No | No | No | No |
| Dickey | No | No | No | No | No |
| Emmons | Contract sanitarian ³ | No | If requested | No | No |
| Kidder | No | No | No | No | No |
| McIntosh | No | No | No | No | No |
| Rolette | No | No | No | No | No |
| Sargent | Contract sanitarian ⁴ | No | If requested, \$75 | No | No |
| Towner | No | No | No | No | No |
| Trail | Contract sanitarian ⁴ | No | If requested, \$75 | No | No |
| Wells | No | No | No | No | No |
| Single County Health Department — | | | | | |
| Foster | Contract sanitarian | No | If requested | No | No |
| LaMoure | No | No | No | No | No |
| Pembina | No | No | No | No | No |
| Ransom | Contract sanitarian ⁴ | No | If requested, \$75 | No | No |
| Richland | Contract sanitarian ⁴ | No | If requested, \$75 | No | No |
| Steele | No | No | No | No | No |
| Walsh | No | No | No | No | No |

³ Custer District Health

⁴ Fargo-Cass Public Health

Environmental Health Services – Addresses and Phone Numbers

Barnes County

City-County Health Dept
County Courthouse
Valley City, ND 58072
(701) 845-3000

Bismarck Fire and Inspections Dept.

1020 Central Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501-1936
(701) 250-7671

Cavalier County Health District

901 3rd Street
Langdon, ND 58249
(701) 256-2402

Central Valley Health

310 10th St. Southeast
PO Box 880
Jamestown, ND
58402-0880
(701) 252-8130

Custer District Health

210 2nd Ave Northwest
Mandan, ND 58554
(701) 667-3370
Stanton Office
Mercer City Courthouse
Stanton, ND 58571
(701) 745-3678

Dickey County Health District

P.O. Box 238
Ellendale, ND 58436
(701) 349-4348

Emmons County Public Health

118 E. Spruce Ave
Linton, ND 58552
(701) 254-4027

Fargo-Cass Public Health

401 3rd Ave North
Fargo, ND 58102
(701) 241-1396

First District Health

801 11th Ave Southwest
PO Box 1268
Minot, ND 58702
(701) 852-1376

Foster County Community Health

1000 Central Ave.
Carrington, ND 58421
(701) 652-3087

Grand Forks Public Health Dept.

151 South 4th Street,
Suite N301
Grand Forks, ND 58201
(701) 787-8100

Kidder County District Health Unit

202 1st Ave NW, Suite #1
Steele, ND 58482-7024
(701) 475-2582

Lake Region District Health

524 4th Ave, #9
Devils Lake, ND 58301
(701) 662-7035

LaMoure County Public Health Dept.

P.O. Box 692
Omega City Plaza
LaMoure, ND 58458
(701) 883-5356

McIntosh District Health Unit

112 N. First St.
P.O. Box 25
Ashley, ND 58413
(701) 288-3957

N.D. Health Department

Division of Municipal
Facilities
PO Box 5520
1200 Missouri Ave, Rm 203
Bismarck, ND 58502-5520
(701) 328-5210

N.D. State Plumbing Board

204 West Thayer Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 328-9977

Nelson/Griggs District Health Unit

116 Main Street
P.O. Box 365
McVille, ND 58254
(701) 322-5624

Pembina County Health Dept.

301 Dakota St. West #2
Cavalier, ND 58220-4100
(701) 265-4248

Ransom County Public Health Dept.

403 Elm Street
P.O. Box 89
Lisbon, ND 58054
(701) 683-5823 ext. 140

Richland County Health Dept.

413 3rd Avenue North
Wahpeton, ND 58075
(701) 642-7735

Rolette County Public Health District

PO Box 726
102 2nd St NE
Rolla, ND 58367-0726
(701) 477-5646

Sargent County District Health Unit

355 Main
P.O. Box 237
Forman, ND 58032-0237
(701) 724-6241

Southwestern District Health Unit

2869 3rd Avenue West
Dickinson, ND 58601
(701) 483-0171 or
1-800-697-3145

Steele County Public Health Dept.

100 Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 317
Finley, ND 58230
(701) 524-2060

Towner County Public Health District

c/o Towner County
Medical Center
Hwy 281 North, Box 688
Cando, ND 58324
(701) 968-2542

Traill District Health Unit

114 W. Caledonia
P.O. Box 58
Hillsboro, ND 58045
(701) 636-4434

Upper Missouri District Health

507 University Avenue
Williston, ND 58801-5522
(701) 572-3763

Walsh County Health Dept.

638 Cooper Ave.
Grafton, ND 58237
(701) 352-5139

Wells County District Health Unit

101 N. Railway Street
P.O. Box 6
Fessenden, ND 58438
(701) 547-3756

For more information on this and other topics, see: www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu

