

# Beauty Salons and Onsite Wastewater Treatment Recommendations

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Beauty salon waste is not covered in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7080. Septic system sizing in MN Rules 7080 is based on research of typical flows and wastewater characteristics from domestic residences. If human waste is being combined with process water all the requirements of 7080 apply along with any other applicable regulations.

A septic system receiving beauty salon waste is considered by EPA to be a Class V system. No rules in Minnesota or from the EPA specifically deal with beauty facilities whose wastewater goes into a septic system although EPA does require that a Class V inventory form be completed and mailed to appropriate agencies. Local ordinances administered by counties, cities and townships may have provisions regarding these facilities and must be consulted.

The typical chemicals used in a beauty salon may create a challenging environment for the necessary bacteria in a septic tank and soil treatment system. The addition of these chemicals may result in septic tank effluent which does not meet the definition of domestic wastewater. If this wastewater is applied to a soil treatment system the life of the system will likely be reduced.

## Option 1

All wastewater placed in a holding tank and either land applied or taken to a waste water treatment plant.

## Option 2

Use a soil treatment system in combination with a holding tank to treat the wastewater.

## **Recommendations**

1. A flow meter must be installed to track water use. Flow data should be collected at representative times (trying to target busy days) and over several months. If no facility exists or an expansion is planned, estimates should be made which include

- a safety factor (1.5 x the highest weekly average). A flow meter must be installed to verify estimates.
2. It is critical that no hazardous waste enter any onsite septic system as they are not designed to treat such waste.
  3. Chemicals enter the system should be limited including peroxide and any antibacterial soap. Onsite septic systems can deal with a small amount of chemicals, but if the amount is above typical domestic usage the performance of the system may be impacted. Unused chemicals should not be disposed of in the system.
  4. A separate sink for the rinsing of treatments (coloring, perming, etc) with high levels of chemicals which is hooked up to a holding tank is advisable if the business will be performing significant amounts of these treatments.
  5. All solid material should be dealt with as a solid waste. Fine screens should be put on all floor and sink drains to catch any small particles and hair.
  6. A commercial size effluent filter (designed for high strength waste) should be placed on the outlet of the last septic tank. A manhole should be located over this filter as there is high potential for maintenance at this location.
  7. The septic tank size should be doubled compared to the minimum in Minnesota Rules Chapter 7080.
  8. A maintenance contract should be in place with a licensed onsite professional to assure the proper operation and maintenance of the treatment system.
  9. If the beauty salon is at a dwelling a separate system is recommended due to the risk of the beauty salon waste and to protect the other soil treatment system.

### **Questions**

If you have further questions please contact Sara Heger at [sheger@umn.edu](mailto:sheger@umn.edu) or 612-625-7243.

### **References**

Bowers, Fred. 2002, Characterizing Beauty Salon Waste for the Purpose of Regulating Onsite Disposal Systems. <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/pdf/salonreport.pdf>

When is a Septic System Regulated as a Class V Well?

[http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/pdfs/fact\\_class5\\_septicsystems.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/pdfs/fact_class5_septicsystems.pdf)