



State and Local Policies Affecting Septic Systems

Onsite sewage treatment systems are regulated through a combined state and local program. The state effort is led by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The MPCA has three main responsibilities:

- 1) Revisions to the state's onsite code (MN Rules Chapters 7080 - 7083),
- 2) Assistance and interpretations to Chapters 7080 - 7083,
- 3) Administration for the statewide professional certification and licensing program.

Chapter 7080 became a statewide code in 1996 and was most recently updated in 2008. This means that all areas within the state have a local ordinance that specifies the local requirements for septic system permitting, inspection, and care. Many of these ordinances are adopted at a county level; many cities and townships also have ordinances. These local onsite programs are responsible for permitting, approving, and inspecting new onsite systems and record keeping of required maintenance activities.

The statewide code also requires that all onsite professionals including Maintainers, Service Providers, Installers, Designers, and Inspectors, be licensed by the MPCA. The requirements to become licensed include education, examination, apprenticeship, continuing education, and appropriate insurance and bonding. The MPCA maintains the list of licensed businesses that can be obtained online by searching for "SSTS Search" at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/>

If you have questions about your onsite system, contact your local permitting authority. You can find the list of those who locally regulate onsite septic systems by searching for "SSTS – Local Units of Government" at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/> or by contact your local planning and zoning office.

A permit file with a drawing that shows how your system was designed and installed should be on file locally. It also may contain pumping and inspection records.