



Onsite Sewerage Systems

Any home or building that is not connected to a community sewer system needs a method for getting rid of human waste. All buildings with indoor plumbing must have a sewerage system in compliance with the [BC Sewerage System Regulation](#).

Construct or Repair an Onsite Sewerage System by an Authorized Person

Step 1: Find an Authorized Person. An Authorized Person (AP) is the only person authorized to design, install, repair, maintain and/or inspect sewerage systems

Step 2: Site Assessment. The Authorized Person gathers information about the property and building(s) which can include digging test holes and inspecting an existing system.

Step 3: The Authorized Person submits a Record of Sewerage System to Interior Health and pays the filing fee. New submissions can be done using the [online registry](#) or complete the [Record of Sewerage System \(RSS\) Form](#).

Step 4: The Authorized Person constructs or repairs the sewerage system.

Step 5: The Authorized Person submits a Letter of Certification to Interior Health through the on-line registry or completes and submits a [Sewerage System Letter of Certification](#). The Authorized Person provides the owner with a copy of all documentation including an as constructed drawing and a maintenance plan.

Online Sewerage Registry for Authorized Persons

Step 1: Create a Profile – email HBE@interiorhealth.ca. Include your first and last name, Registration #, Company name, and email address. IH Public Health Accounts will send you an email with instructions on how to register and start using your account.

Step 2: Access the online sewerage registry

Step 3: Read the Training Guide – [IH Sewerage Registry for Authorized Persons](#)

Resource: Checklist for IH filing requirements – [Authorized Person Submission Checklist](#)

Request a Release of a Covenant

Payment for a Release of Covenant application is non-refundable. Prior to making any payment, [contact our HBE Team](#) to review your proposal.

- [Apply for a Release of Section 219 Covenant](#)
- [Application for Release of Covenant](#)
- [Make payment](#) after discussing your proposal with an HBE Team member.

Apply for a Holding Tank Permit

A holding tank is not considered a sustainable method for sewage management but can be considered as a temporary measure or in situations where other systems would result in a health hazard. To be in compliance with the BC Sewerage System Regulation an Environmental Health Officer must issue a permit. Plans and specifications are to be prepared by an Authorized Person.

Note: Payment for a holding tank permit is non-refundable. Prior to making payment, [contact our HBE Team](#) to review your proposal.

- [Find an Authorized Person](#)
- [Find Sewerage Holding Tank Information](#)
- [Find Holding Tank Planning & Installation Guidelines](#)
- [Find Application to Construct a Holding Tank](#)
- [Find Sewerage Holding Tank Letter of Certification](#)

Resources

- [How to Find a Septic Tank](#) - BC pamphlet
- [Septic Smart Resource Library](#) - Columbia Shuswap Regional District website
- [Onsite Sewerage Systems](#) - BC webpage with links to regulations
- [Sewerage System Standard Practice Manual](#) - BC webpage
- [Applied Science and Technologists & Technicians of BC \(ASTTBC\)](#) - Onsite Wastewater Registered Professionals website

As a step towards reconciliation, Interior Health acknowledges the land that we live, work, and play on as the traditional territories of the Dakeh Dene, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwepemc, St'at'imc, Syilx and Tsilhqot'in peoples. It is with humility that we continue to strengthen our relationships with the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples of the interior.



Recommended Precautions for Water and Food Affected by Fire Retardants

Forest fires are a natural ecological process. In BC forest fires are common in the summer and fall months. The [BC Wildfire Branch](#) uses fire retardant to reduce the size and impact wildfires can have on our forests and communities. Most fire retardants currently in use are formulated from a product called *Phos-chek*.

A product called *Firetrol* has been used in the past and is now being phased out. *Phos-chek* and *Firetrol* contain low environmental toxicity however precautions are recommended for water supplies and food crops affected by fire retardants. For more information please see [Health and Safety Around Fire Retardants/Suppressants](#).

WATER QUALITY

For individuals who are on a **community water system**:

- Questions about the quality of drinking water should be directed to the local water supplier (e.g. municipality, utility provider, etc.). These suppliers are best able to assess how their systems have been affected and whether there is any impact on the quality of drinking water.
- Community water systems where fire retardant was used in their watershed area will have increased monitoring for changes in water quality. Public notifications will be issued if there is some level of risk or uncertainty associated with drinking water use.

For those on **private water systems (e.g. individual wells)** that suspect their water supply may have been affected by a fire:

- Use an alternative source of drinking water until the water source can be assessed or tested.
- Test private surface and ground water sources affected by fire retardant application to ensure compliance with the Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines. Sample bottles can be provided by water testing laboratories. For information on having your private water source tested, please refer to the list of [Provincial Health Officer Approved Drinking Water Testing Laboratories](#) (pdf).

FOOD SAFETY

VEGETABLES

In areas where fire retardant has been directly applied, consumption of vegetables from gardens, forest or alpine areas to which retardant has been applied is not recommended.

FRUIT

In areas where fire retardant has been directly applied to fruit bearing trees or berry bushes (e.g. raspberries, apples, blueberries, soft fruits): the current risk evaluation information is incomplete. As a precaution, consumption of fruit from gardens, forest or alpine areas to which retardant has been applied is not recommended.

ANIMAL FODDER

In areas where fire retardant has been applied to animal fodder (e.g. hay, alfalfa, corn, etc.) please speak with the [Ministry of Agriculture](#) about information on recommendations.

ANIMAL HEALTH

If you have questions on animal health, please speak to your local veterinarian.

After a Fire – Food Safety For Homeowners

During a fire your home may have been without power. For the safety of you and your family, food in your home will need to be assessed. During a power outage, refrigerators and freezers cannot maintain a safe temperature indefinitely.

To prevent bacterial growth and spoilage:

- Refrigerated foods must be under 4° Celsius and frozen food must be at -18° Celsius or less.
- A full chest freezer will keep food frozen for up to 2 days
- A half-full chest freezer will keep food frozen for up to 1 day
- A cooler or fridge will keep food cold for 4 hours.

If you don't have a thermometer or if you don't know how long your fridge or freezer was without power, check the products in the fridge for spoilage and souring.

Look for:

- Milk and other dairy products that have spoiled/become sour. Spoiled dairy products are a good indicator that the fridge has been off and all food should be discarded.
- Ice cream that has thawed and refrozen is a good indicator that the freezer has been off.
- Fish product that smells bad upon thawing is also a sign that food in your freezer has thawed and refrozen.
- Frozen foods that have thawed must be discarded as they may no longer be safe to eat. Once thawed, food should not be refrozen.
- Food in the freezer that has (or may have) reached 4° Celsius or warmer should be discarded and must not be refrozen.



**IF IN DOUBT,
THROW IT OUT**

Please check the [Interior Health](#) website for more Emergency Information.

If you have questions contact your [Environmental Health Officer](#).