SEPTICS — GUIDE

Septic licensing rules: how to check state programs

Examples from Texas, Oregon and Washington show why the role and jurisdiction matter.

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A business name or association logo does not establish a current license. EPA says septic systems are regulated at the state and local level. Use the property location and the work you need to find the right authority. This guide gives examples, not a complete legal survey. [US EPA, Frequent Questions on Septic Systems, accessed 2026-11-10.]

Texas: match the OSSF role

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality lists distinct on-site sewage facility roles. These include Installer I, Installer II, Site Evaluator and Maintenance Provider, as well as other roles. Ask TCEQ and the local authorized agent which credential covers your work. Do not treat a maintenance credential as proof that someone can perform every installation task. [TCEQ, Occupational Licenses: On-Site Sewage Facilities, accessed 2026-11-10.]

Oregon: check the SDS license

Oregon DEQ says a person must be licensed to perform sewage disposal services. Its licensing page lists Installer, Pumper and combined Pumper/Installer license types. It describes construction and pumping activities within the program. Check the business and the license type directly with DEQ before booking. Ask the local onsite agent about the property permit as a separate question. [Oregon DEQ, Onsite Licensing, accessed 2026-11-10.]

Washington: start with local health

Washington State Department of Health directs owners to local health agencies for a list of certified septic pumpers and local help. Ask the agency which credential and inspection process apply where the property sits. Do not copy a neighbouring county's process without checking. [Washington DOH, Septic Systems, accessed 2026-11-10.]

Make a short verification record

Record the issuing agency, exact business or person name, credential type, number, status, scope and date checked. Save the public result or written agency response. Ask whether the worker attending the property is covered by that record. If the number does not match, pause and ask the agency to explain.

For Canadian work, start with the relevant provincial and local authority. The US examples above do not state Canadian requirements. Septics does not certify a company. Owner edits to license fields require review, but that review does not replace an agency status check.

Sources

All sources below were fetched and checked on 2026-11-10. That is the access date, not a claim about publication date.

- US EPA: Frequent Questions on Septic Systems, accessed 2026-11-10.
- Texas TCEQ: OSSF occupational licenses, accessed 2026-11-10.
- Oregon DEQ: Onsite Licensing, accessed 2026-11-10.
- Washington State Department of Health: Septic Systems, accessed 2026-11-10.

Frequently asked questions

Is there a single US septic contractor license?

EPA says septic systems are regulated at state and local levels. Check the role and local authority for your property.