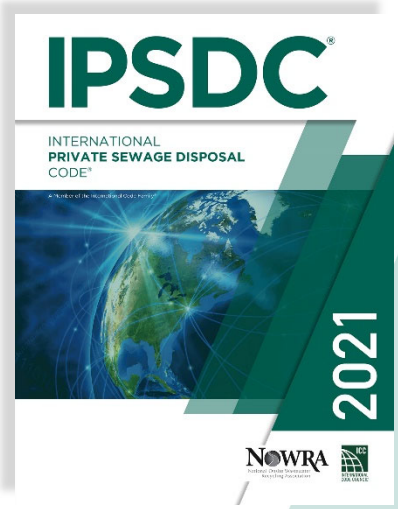
The 2021 International Private Sewage Disposal Code®

Why It Should Be In Your Future

FACTS



- The International Code Council (ICC) updates its construction and public safety codes every three years through a governmental consensus process.
- The International Private Sewage Disposal Code® (IPSDC®) is in use or adopted in 20 states, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Approximately 182 million people, or 54% of the U.S. population, live in areas that have adopted the IPSDC.
- The IPSDC is innovative, efficient, effective, and fully correlated with the other International Codes® (I-Codes®). The IPSDC has a total of 9 sections that reference the other members of the International Code Family.

BENEFITS

- The IPSDC recognizes new materials, new technologies and engineered designs, providing multiple options and flexibility for the design of private sewage disposal systems.
- Numerous piping materials are included for use. These materials include both plastic and metallic piping, for private sewage disposal system piping. Having a choice of materials provides greater flexibility to the design professionals and building owners as to which materials best fits their construction budget and can result in significant material cost savings.
- The IPSDC addresses the best practices and technologies to ensure the safety and welfare of communities, individuals, and businesses that utilize their own onsite wastewater solutions.
- Site evaluation and requirements are addressed. Because soil conditions vary widely, even on the same building site, tests and inspections of the soils must be performed to evaluate the degree to which the soil can accept these liquids. The results of the tests provide necessary information to design an adequate private sewage disposal system.

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- The IPSDC covers the design of soil absorption systems. These are systems where nonpotable water flows from the outlet of a septic tank by gravity into a piping network for distributing the water in an excavated area nearby.
- Where gravity-type soil absorption systems are not feasible, or preferred, other methods such as pressure distribution systems are offered as an alternative method of discharging the effluent into the ground by pressure means. In these systems the water is pumped from a collection tank to the absorption area at regular intervals.
- Septic tanks and other treatment tanks are key components of private sewage disposal systems as they must be properly sized to achieve the desired reduction of sewage to its basic components of sludge and nonpotable water. The IPSDC covers sizing, capacity and installation of these tanks and water holding tanks.
- Mound systems are another method for disposal of the nonpotable water from a septic tank addressed. Mound systems may be advantageous in some localities due to the existing soil conditions. The code has specific requirements for soil and site evaluations for mound systems.
- The design and installation of cesspools are covered in the IPSDC. Although prohibited from being installed as a permanent private sewage disposal system, cesspools may be necessary where permanent systems are under repair or are being built.
- Septic systems are not the only method for treatment of sewage from a residence. Factory-built wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, can discharge effluent directly to streams and rivers. The code specifies the standard to which these small wastewater treatment plants must conform.
- The best soil and site analysis along with the best design will be rendered useless if the system is not installed according to the plans for the system. The IPSDC includes provisions for initial inspection procedures, preparation for inspection (including requirements that installers provide proper apparatus and equipment necessary to perform inspections), as well as instructions that restrict covering of work until inspections have been approved by the code official.
- In some locations, water for the flushing of waste into and through a sanitary piping system is not available. The IPSDC recognizes nonliquid saturated treatment systems, or composting, as a method for disposing of human waste in these instances. For example, a toilet facility provided for a remote campground without running water would require such a system. The code specifies the standard to which nonliquid saturated treatment systems must conform.

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