

# LCRA's Most Commonly Asked Questions About TECHNICAL Issues for Onsite Sewage Facilities

Q. *What is retro fitting?*

A. Retro fitting is a term used when LCRA requires the use of low-flow toilets, showerheads, and faucet Aerators, in order to conserve water and reduce wastewater discharges.

Q. *When is retro fitting required?*

A. **1)** Retro fitting is required if one bedroom or one potential bedroom is added to a residence over the Number it is currently licensed to service, without enlarging the system and if the system was installed Under an LCRA permit. This option does not apply to certain evaporation systems installed prior to December 31, 1987. **2)** When the square footage of an addition does not go over the amount of heated Space that the system is licensed for, retro fitting would be required without a system modification. **3)** All grand fathered systems (systems installed prior to September 17, 1971) are required to be retro fitted.

Q. *Will LCRA uncover the tank?*

A. NO. The property owner or a representative selected by the property owner is responsible for having the tank or any other part of the system exposed for inspection.

Q. *What is a site hole?*

A. A site hole is an inspection hole that is dug in the drain field. This hole should be within 15 feet of the beginning of the absorption area. It should be wall to wall (one foot wide on trench system and at least one foot by two foot wide on bed systems). The hole should be excavated down to the perforated pipe in the drain field.

Q. *When is a site hole required?*

A. On ALL systems installed prior to September 17, 1971.

Q. *What is a repair?*

A. A repair is made to an on-site system to abate a serious and dangerous nuisance condition without Altering the sewage facility planned function. Notification of a repair is given to LCRA within 72 hours of when the repair has begun. This does NOT include work done to the drain field.

Q. *How soon can construction start for a repair?*

A. As soon as the application for inspection and fee has been submitted to the LCRA office, you can start your repair. **DO NOT forward application (ie fax machine) without payments, it will not be processed.**

Q. *Can a property owner to the repair?*

A. YES, as long as any other individual is NOT being compensated for the work being done.

Q. *What is a system modification?*

A. The addition to or improvement of part or all of a septic system to meet current standards.

Q. *Are holding tanks allowed?*

A. Only on lots (as determined by the LCRA) to have no other feasible method or as an interim facility, such as prior to the connection of a central sewer system.

Q. *Can a drain field be less than 100 feet from a water well?*

A. POSSIBLY. A variance may be requested from the LCRA. The LCRA will require information on the construction of the well, so the property owner should be prepared to submit supporting information regarding the well construction.

Q. *What is a profile hole?*

A. Generally a backhoe excavation two to three feet wide and two feet below the depth of the drain field, with one hole located at each end of the proposed drain field location.

Q. *What is the purpose of a profile hole?*

A. It is used by a professional registered sanitarian, installer II or professional engineer, to evaluate the soil classification and feasibility of the proposed system. In the event ground water or a restrictive horizon os found less than two feet below the bottom of the proposed drain field, a conventional soil absorption system shall NOT be installed. Conventional drain fields are also prohibited from use in clay soils.

Q. *Is an inspection required if the property will be connected to a centralized sewer system?*

A. POSSIBLY. If you are within the LCRA process of having a system licensed in your name and you are within a defined time period of connecting to a centralized system, an inspection may not be required.