

Oregon Septic Smart



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Environmental
Quality

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What is Oregon Septic Smart?

Oregon DEQ is joining efforts with industry professionals and private citizens to help educate Oregonians about the importance of septic systems, septic system inspections and proper septic system maintenance.

Oregon Septic Smart Goals

The Oregon Septic Smart Initiative has two main goals:

1. Provide Oregonians with easy access to important information about their septic systems
2. Provide Oregonians with easy access to certified industry professionals that perform septic system inspections, also called Existing System Evaluations

Why was Oregon Septic Smart Created?

Click on the links to access forms and additional information, or find the URL below.

Oregon Septic Smart was created as an outreach tool to inform and educate the professional real estate community, home owners and home buyers, and Onsite professionals about Oregon Administrative Rules that may impact the transfer of residential property.

In January of 2014 the Environmental Quality Commission adopted rule changes that impact the way the DEQ Onsite Wastewater Program oversees septic system activities in Oregon. One of the new rules adopted by the EQC was the Existing System Evaluation rule ([OAR 340-071-0155](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/OC/OC%20Rules/OC%20Rules%20-%202014/OC%20Rules%20-%202014%20-%20ESER%20-%2020140101.pdf)).

The Existing System Evaluation rule clearly defines who is qualified and allowed to perform septic system inspections, the minimum activities that a septic system inspection should entail, and how the findings from a septic system inspection must be reported.

How Does Oregon Septic Smart Impact Real Estate Transfers?

Click on the links to access additional information, or find the URL below.

Having a septic system inspection at the time of transfer of a residential property is 100% voluntary. However, there are mandatory requirements that must be met whenever an inspection is performed.

1) A septic system inspection must be performed by someone who has at least one of the following qualifications: Certified Installer, Certified Maintenance Provider, Licensed Environmental Health Specialist, Licensed Wastewater Specialist, Licensed Professional Engineer, NAWT Certified Inspector.

For a list of qualified Inspectors visit the [Oregon Septic Smart Inspector](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/WQ/Pages/onsite/SepticSmartInspectorList.aspx) list or one of the [Certification databases](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/WQ/Pages/onsite/SepticSmartHome.aspx).

2) The findings from a septic system inspection **must** be reported on the DEQ [Existing System Evaluation Report](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/WQ/Pages/onsite/SepticSmartHome.aspx) form. See [ESER form FAQs](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/WQ/Pages/onsite/SepticSmartHome.aspx) for answers to many questions about the use of this form.

[Oregon Septic Smart Home](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ/WQ/Pages/onsite/SepticSmartHome.aspx) provides access to important information regarding owner responsibility, proper septic system operation and guides to septic system maintenance. You can also access easy to follow guides that describe the “what and how” of septic systems

Find additional information on the web page below:

- Looking for an Oregon Septic Smart Inspector?
<http://www.oregon.gov/deq/WQ/Pages/onsite/SepticSmartHome.aspx>
- Looking for important information about your septic system?
<http://www.oregon.gov/deq/WQ/Pages/onsite/SepticSmartHome.aspx>