



ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM (OWTS) CONTRACTOR LICENSE EXAMINATION

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For office use only:
SCORE: _____

Name: _____ Company: _____ Date: _____

Note: *Colorado State Law enables local jurisdictions to license systems contractors under the authority of 25-10-109 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. This examination is designed as an educational tool. While most of the questions are based on your knowledge of the Pitkin County OWTS Regulations, additional questions will test your knowledge of the best installation practices and will be counted as extra credit. You must receive 80% or better to pass.*

Please answer all questions. Each question is worth 5 points.

1. TRUE In order to begin construction on an OWTS, you must have a valid OWTS Construction Permit from the local jurisdiction.
 FALSE
2. TRUE You could be subject to penalties if you install or alter an OWTS without a permit.
 FALSE
3. TRUE OWTS Construction Permits can expire.
 FALSE
4. TRUE It is not necessary for you as the licensed systems contractor to contact the local OWTS permitting agency to obtain a valid OWTS Construction Permit before beginning work on an OWTS, including minor repairs.
 FALSE
5. TRUE Once an OWTS Construction Permit is issued, you have the flexibility to make changes regarding the permit requirements without first having checked with the local regulatory authority.
 FALSE
6. **Check all that apply:** When installing a septic system, the components must remain minimum distances away from which of the following:
 - WELLS
 - OCCUPIED BUILDINGS
 - PROPERTY LINES
 - LAKES, STREAMS, & DITCHES
 - DRIVEWAYS
 - UNOCCUPIED BUILDINGS (SHEDS, BARNs, ETC...)
7. TRUE Additional setback distances beyond the minimum are required for an OWTS in which the design flow is over 1000 gallons per day.
 FALSE
8. TRUE Crossing of pipes or encroachments within setbacks may be allowed if properly mitigated. For example, water and sewer lines may cross and still meet regulations.
 FALSE
9. **Check the answer** that most accurately describes the preferred location of the 8 foot soil profile hole.
 - DIRECTLY WITHIN THE AREA WHERE YOU PLAN TO INSTALL THE ABSORPTION AREA, CAUSING DISTURBANCE OF NATIVE
 - IN AN AREA ADJACENT TO THE LOWEST ANTICIPATED PORTION OF THE ADSORPTION AREA TO MINIMIZE SOIL DISTURBANCE
 - NEAR THE FOUNDATION OF THE HOUSE
10. TRUE Sanitary tees (extending at least 14" below the invert of the outlet and inlet of a septic tank) are required.
 FALSE

11. TRUE The largest compartment of a septic tank or largest tank in a series must come first.
 FALSE
12. TRUE Sanitary tees should *not* be accessible from the access opening for easy maintenance
 FALSE and inspection.
13. TRUE Tanks must be set on a firm and level base.
 FALSE
14. TRUE Tanks are *not* required to be water tight.
 FALSE
15. TRUE An absorption system is prohibited in compacted areas such as parking lots, driveways,
 FALSE and construction staging areas.
16. TRUE Cast iron pipe may not be used to convey wastewater within an OWTS.
 FALSE
17. TRUE The minimum horizontal separation between trench sidewalls must contain at least 6 feet
 FALSE of undisturbed earth.
18. TRUE The components of the OWTS can be covered before they have been inspected by the
 FALSE local health department and/or the design engineer.
19. **Check the correct answer:** Conducting business as a systems contractor without first obtaining a license,
as required by the local Environmental Health Department, is considered:
 A CLASS 1 PETTY OFFENSE
 GOOD JUDGMENT
 A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE
 NONE OF THE ABOVE
20. TRUE There must be at least four feet of vertical separation between the bottom of a soil
 FALSE absorption system or a limiting geology such as groundwater or bedrock.

Best Practice Extra Credit Questions. Each question is worth 1 point.

1. TRUE You should always have the OWTS Construction permit on site during installation.
 FALSE
2. TRUE It is a good idea to encase or use a stronger rated pipe when installing OWTS or effluent
 FALSE lines under driveways.
3. TRUE It is a good idea to install a clean out which extends to at least finished grade between
 FALSE the tank and the house.
4. TRUE Tanks should be placed on bedding material such as gravel to accomplish a firm base.
 FALSE
5. **Check the correct answer:** Which best describes proper septic tank installation?
 AS DEEP AS POSSIBLE
 AT LEAST 100 FEET FROM THE BUILDING
 SO ACCESS REMAINS WITHIN 8 INCHES OF FINISHED GRADE IN AN AREA ACCESSIBLE FOR CLEANING
6. TRUE When distribution boxes are necessary, they should be filled with water at the time of
 FALSE inspection to assure equal distribution of effluent.
7. TRUE Absorption fields should be placed in area where snowmelt and drainage water can
 FALSE accumulate, preferably on north facing slopes.

8. TRUE A shallow trench configuration in a gravity fed distribution system is preferred over deep bed installations.
 FALSE
9. TRUE Raking or scarifying the bottom and sidewall areas of an absorption area must be performed to mitigate smeared soils.
 FALSE
10. **Check the correct answer:** Which best describes the optimum depth at which an absorption area should be placed?
- AS DEEP AS POSSIBLE
 PARTIALLY ON THE SURFACE OF THE GROUND
 AT THE DEPTH PERCOLATION TESTS WERE PERFORMED, NORMALLY 2-3 FEET, OR AS SPECIFIED IN THE PERMIT

F NATIVE SOILS
ANCE

