



# ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM (OWTS) CLEANER LICENSE EXAMINATION

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For office use only:  
SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: *Colorado State Law enables local jurisdictions to license systems cleaners under the authority of 25-10-109 of the Colorado Revised Statutes. This examination is designed as an educational tool based on the Pitkin County OWTS Regulations. You must receive 80% or better to pass.*

**Please answer all questions. Each question is worth 10 points.**

1.  TRUE  FALSE No entity or individual shall engage in the cleaning of an OWTS unless the work is performed by a licensed systems cleaner, or is being performed under the direct supervision of a licensed systems cleaner.
  
2.  TRUE  FALSE Collected sewage can be disposed of at any site that will accept it.
  
3.  TRUE  FALSE In back flowing types of systems, cleaning shall be effective in reducing solids and scum to the point of a near-new system.
  
4.  TRUE  FALSE Filters found to be clogged during routine maintenance may be removed or discarded to avoid future problems.
  
5.  TRUE  FALSE You can be subject to penalties if you install or alter an OWTS without an OWTS Construction permit.
  
6. **Check all that apply:** A systems cleaner, when cleaning a septic tank or aeration plant, shall remove the liquid sledge and scum from all compartments, leaving no more than \_\_\_\_\_ inches of sewage in a non-back flowing system.  
 8  
 3  
 5  
 10
  
7. **Check the correct answer:** The following are prohibited and must be reported to the owner, in writing, upon discovery:  
 MALFUNCTIONING SYSTEMS  
 CESSPOOLS  
 METAL TANKS  
 ALL OF THE ABOVE
  
8.  TRUE  FALSE It is the responsibility of the systems cleaner to notify the property owner(s) and the Department, in writing, of any damage or missing components such as pumps, alarms, tees, etc...

9. **Check the correct answer:** Conducting business as a systems cleaner without first obtaining a license, if requirement by the local Environmental Health Department, is considered:

- A CLASS 1 PRETTY OFFENSE
- GOOD JUDGMENT
- A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE
- NONE OF THE ABOVE

10.  TRUE      Each septic tank compartment, aerated treatment plant, or pumping chamber must have an access port within 8" of finished grade to allow for periodic inspection and/or maintenance and must be marked.  
 FALSE

**Extra Credit Questions. Each question is worth 2 points.**

1.  TRUE      Sanitary tees should not be accessible from the opening for easy maintenance and inspection.  
 FALSE

2.  TRUE      The largest compartment of the septic tank or the largest tank in a series must come first.  
 FALSE

3.  TRUE      Septic tank additives should not be used because they cause oil, grease, and other solids to emulsify and migrate to the absorption area where they later consolidate and eventually clog the soils.  
 FALSE

4. **Check the correct answer:** Proper methods of abandoning septic tanks or vaults include...

- PUMPING ALL LIQUIDS AND SOLIDS FROM THE TANK
- IF TANKS ARE TO BE ABANDONED IN PLACE, FILL TANK WITH SOIL OR GRAVEL TO ELIMINATE VOIDS IN CASE OF COLLAPSE
- REMOVE THE TANK
- ALL OF THE ABOVE

5.  TRUE      The transmission of diseases, such as Hepatitis A, from sewage can be prevented by wearing appropriate personal protective equipment and maintaining up-to-date immunizations.  
 FALSE