

ARTICLE III. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sec. 13-30. Definitions

Alternative on-site wastewater system: An on-site wastewater system within the drainage basin varies from conventional on-site wastewater system equipment, methods, processes and installation procedures in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Department of Public Health and employs an accepted pretreatment process.

Board: The Alabama On-Site Wastewater Board.

Certification: A written representation from a person duly licensed by the Alabama On-Site Wastewater Board that the required installation and/or service has been accomplished and that the on-site wastewater system is in all respects functioning properly.

Contractor: A person duly licensed by the Alabama On-Site Wastewater Board to engage in the installation and maintenance of on-site wastewater systems or a duly licensed plumber installing or maintaining a pump or pump grinder associated with a septic tank or an alternative on-site wastewater system.

Drainage basin: That portion of the drainage basins of any of the city's raw water reservoirs, consisting of Lake Tuscaloosa, Lake Nicol and Harris Lake which are also within either the corporate limits of the City of Tuscaloosa or its police jurisdiction hereinafter collectively referred to as the "drainage basin."

Failing on-site wastewater systems: A failing on-site wastewater system within the drainage basin is one which no longer effectively or efficiently treats wastewater or one which is failing to contain wastewater effluent by allowing the same to be discharged to the ground surface.

Health department: The Tuscaloosa County Board of Health.

Installation: The act of installing an on-site wastewater system or the installation of a filter on such a system depending upon the context.

Lakes division: The City of Tuscaloosa Water and Sewer Department Division of Lakes and its manager.

License: A valid and current certification of qualification issued by the Alabama On-Site Wastewater Board authorizing the named person to whom it is issued to engage in the specialized area and level of qualifications described on the certificate.

Major component of a system: A part of a system which is essential to the system's ability to effectively and efficiently treat wastewater including, but not limited to; the tank, field lines, pump, pump grinder, effluent pump, and/or secondary or alternative treatment systems.

On-site wastewater system or system: Any system of piping, tanks, treatment devices, pumps (including pump grinders and effluent pumps), field lines, alarms or other facilities or devices that carry or convey, store, treat, or dispose of sewage (human waste) where the system is not connected to a public sewer, including either a conventional on-site wastewater system or an alternative on-site wastewater system

Owner: The holder of the fee simple title as revealed on the relevant property tax rolls, and any person (natural, legal or corporate) or groups of persons, companies, associations, corporations, or partnerships who, alone or jointly or severally with others: (1) shall have legal title to any property, with or without an accompanying right of possession; or (2) shall have charge, care or control of any property as owner, executor, executrix, administrator, trustee, guardian of the estate owner, mortgagee or vendee in possession, or assignee of rents, lessee, or other person, firm or corporation in control of a property.

Septic tank or conventional on-site wastewater system: An on-site wastewater system within the drainage basin consisting of a septic tank, or an Alabama Department of Public Health-approved treatment device with the effluent discharging into a subsurface effluent disposal medium, where all portions of the effluent disposal field sidewalls are installed below the elevation of undisturbed native soil.

Service or servicing: The act of cleaning, pumping, maintaining, inspecting, replacing and/or repairing all major components of an installed on-site wastewater system in accordance with the provisions hereof.

Service date: For systems serviced or installed subsequent to January 1, 2007, the service date shall be the date no later than three (3) years from the date upon which the owner of any onsite wastewater system within the drainage basin had such system serviced or installed and no later than every three (3) years thereafter.

Initial service date: For systems installed or serviced more than three (3) years prior to January 1, 2007, the initial service date shall be during the month as indicated in the following schedule commencing January 2007 and no later than every three (3) years thereafter.

TABLE INSET:

Initial Service	First Letter of Last Name of Owner
January	A, D
February	B
March	C, E
April	F, G, N
May	H, O
June	M, I
July	P, L
August	J, K, R
September	Q, S, T
October	U, V, W
November	X, Y, Z
December	No service dates

The first letter in the last name of subsequent owners shall not alter the initial service date once established although subsequent services may alter the service date in accordance with the first paragraph hereof. In no event shall the service date be more than three (3) years after the installation or last servicing of the system.

Initial service date: For systems installed or serviced within the three-year period immediately preceding January 1, 2007, the initial service date shall be during the month as indicated in the following schedule of the third year subsequent to such installation or service and no later than every three (3) years thereafter.

TABLE INSET:

Initial Service	First Letter of Last Name of Owner
January	A, D
February	B
March	C, E
April	F, G, N
May	H, O
June	M, I
July	P, L
August	J, K, R
September	Q, S, T
October	U, V, W
November	X, Y, Z
December	No service dates

The first letter in the last name of subsequent owners shall not alter the initial service date once established although subsequent services may alter the service date in accordance with the first paragraph hereof. In no event shall the service date be more than three (3) years after the installation or last servicing of the system.

. Sec. 13-51. Installation, maintenance, and operation of on-site wastewater systems in the drainage basin of Lake Tuscaloosa, Lake Nicol and Harris Lake.

(1) *Applicability:* Notwithstanding anything to the contrary and in addition to any other requirement of this Code not in conflict with the provisions hereof, the following provision shall apply to all on-site wastewater systems that are within the drainage basin.

(2) *Licensing required; no exception for property owners:* All persons engaged in the installation or servicing of on-site wastewater systems in the drainage basin must be duly licensed by the board pursuant to Code of Ala. 1975, § 34-21A-1 et seq., including owners of property acting as their own contractor for such purposes, provided; however, a duly licensed plumber may install or maintain a pump or pump grinder associated with a septic tank or an alternative on site wastewater system.

It shall be unlawful for any person to undertake or attempt to undertake the business or activity of installing or servicing any on-site wastewater system, including a system upon their own property within the drainage basin, without first having obtained a license from the board pursuant to Code of Ala. 1975 § 34-21A-1, et seq. or being a duly licensed plumber installing or maintaining a pump or pump grinder associated with a septic tank or an alternative on-site wastewater system.

(3) *Registration:* On or before August 31, 2006, all owners within the drainage basin upon which is located an onsite wastewater system shall register the same with the lakes division. On each occasion of a change in ownership of property within the drainage basin upon which is located an onsite wastewater system, the owner of such property shall register the same with the lakes division.

(4) *Restriction:* No on-site wastewater system or any portion or component of the same may be installed within three hundred (300) feet of the short line of Lake Tuscaloosa, Harris Lake, or Lake Nicol, with the exception of the structure served by the system and a required and approved pump grinder. Provided however, the foregoing shall not apply to individual specifically identified parcels of property or lots in subdivisions that were issued septic tank permits by the health department prior to November 1, 1974, and are not otherwise capable of compliance with this provision.

(5) *Health department rules, regulations:* The rules and regulations duly adopted by the health department in regard to on-site wastewater systems are adopted herein by reference to the extent the same do not contravene or conflict with the provisions hereof.

(6) *Servicing of on-site wastewater systems in the drainage basin:*

(a) *Initial servicing.* By the initial service date, all on-site wastewater systems in use within the drainage basin, must be serviced as required herein and certified by a contractor to be in proper working order and a certificate to that effect provided by the owner to the lakes division.

(b) *Regular servicing:* By the service date, all on-site wastewater systems in use within the drainage basin must be serviced as required herein and certified by a contractor to be in proper working order and a certificate to that effect provided by the owner to the lakes division.

(c) *Servicing requirements:* Servicing shall include opening of the system lid or service-port and a visual inspection to determine that the baffle wall is in place, that the baffle wall is not collapsed nor blocked preventing adequate flow of wastewater from the inlet compartment into the secondary compartment. Both compartments of the system's tank should be inspected for the integrity of the tank, and then both ends of the system's tank should be pumped out, removing solids and grease/scum mat from each compartment. The inlet pipe should be in place without blockage and the outlet tee should be inspected and properly in place with effluent filter in place. The effluent filter, if one exists or is required, should be removed, cleaned and replaced in the outlet tee. Once the pumping is completed, all inspection is completed and lids are replaced, the openings should be secured to prevent entry by children and pets and inspected for safety. (It is recommended that all tanks be equipped with risers to ground surface and fitted with secure fitting, tamper-proof lids able to withstand weight of routine traffic.) On-site sewage disposal fields should be inspected for leakage or failure. Wastewater observed on the ground surface is considered a failure of the system and requires immediate repair and attention. See subsection (12) in regard to repair of failing systems and the requirements for testing.

(7) *Servicing pumps, effluent pumps and pump grinders:*

(a) *Initial servicing:* By the initial service date all pumps, effluent and pump grinders associated with an on-site wastewater system in use within the drainage basin must be serviced as required herein and certified by a contractor to be in proper working order and a certificate to that effect provided by the owner to the lakes division.

(b) *Regular servicing:* By the service date, all pumps, effluent pumps and pump grinders associated with an on-site wastewater system installed within the drainage basin must be serviced as required herein and certified by a contractor to be in proper working order and a certificate to that effect provided by the owner to the lakes division.

(c) *Servicing requirements:* All system pumps, effluent pumps and pump grinders (pump), etc. should be inspected for safety, all seals should be checked and replaced where necessary, should be operated (cycled) to demonstrate the pump is properly functioning, inspected for leakage, safety of wiring and alarm components checked for proper warning in the event of failure of the pump (if alarms are required as otherwise provided herein). The pump chamber should be cleaned of excess debris and sealed to prevent tampering or entry by children or others unnecessarily. Pipes leading to systems or to sewer lines or field lines should be inspected for leaks, breaks, or other problems which would require attention or repair.

(8) *Specifications for pumps and pump grinders:*

(a) From and after December 31, 2004, all pumps and pump grinders installed in association with on-site wastewater systems within the drainage basin shall be of the type designed to meet field encountered conditions by a qualified person familiar with the requirements of sewerage pumping facilities. Pumps and/or pump grinders shall be designed to reduce domestic, commercial and light industrial waste to a finely ground slurry.

(b) All pump grinders installed after December 31, 2004, within the drainage basin shall meet the following criteria:

1. As a minimum, pump grinders shall be a two (2) HP, simplex submersible grinder pump; single phase start/run; two hundred thirty (230) volt; sixty (60) HZ; oil filled--hermetically sealed motor with overload protection; three thousand four hundred fifty (3,450) rpm pump capable of a minimum pumping capacity of twenty-one (21) gpm with a one and one-fourth-inch to two-inch NPT vertical discharge; with hardened stainless steel cutter rotor and disc; pumps shall be simplex type as manufactured by one of the following manufacturers, or equal as determined by a qualified designer.

- a. Zoeller Pump Co.--820 series
- b. Myers Pump Co.--WGL--20 series
- c. Barnes Pump Co.--SGV series
- d. Goulds Pump Co.--RGS2012 series
- e. Environmental One--2000 series
- f. HyDromatic--H series

2. The pump chamber at a minimum shall be a one-piece fiberglass unit, forty-eight (48) inches in diameter and forty-eight (48) inches in height, complete with anti-flotation ring; fiberglass cover with rubber seal ring and bolted down to chamber; one and one-fourth-inch to two-inch PVC discharge pipe with rubber seal; one and one-fourth-inch to two-inch ball valve and one and one-fourth-inch to two-inch check valve. The sewer line to pump shall be sealed with a properly sized rubber grommet.

3. The pump control panel shall be NEMA approved for use with the model pump grinder installed complete with circuits for pump float controls, alarm light and motor controls.

4. All pumps and pump grinders must have a control panel with audible and visual alarms. The pump and the control panel must each be on separate individual circuits from each other and from the main house panel with no other appliances on either circuit.

(9) *Specification for effluent pumps.* All effluent pumps installed after December 31, 2004, within the drainage basin shall meet the following criteria:

(a) *Generally:*

1. No plastic or fiberglass garbage can-type basins may be used for effluent pumps.
2. All basins, whether concrete or fiberglass must have ground level lid access.

3. An effluent filter is required inside the septic tank, with riser over filter.
 4. Except as otherwise required, all components necessary to install the pump must be of plastic schedule 40 PVC.
 5. All effluent pumps shall have a schedule 40 PVC check valve, union and ball valve.
 6. All effluent basins shall have a stainless float bracket mounted by stainless bolts and nuts in order to hang pump and alarm floats. The practice of tying float cords in a knot around discharge pipe is not permissible. All floats shall be mounted on the stainless steel bracket.
 7. All effluent pumps must have a control panel with audible and visual alarms. The pump and the alarm must each be on separate individual circuits from each other and from the main house panel with no other appliances on either circuit.
- (a) *Basins:* All effluent pump basins shall be either:
1. Industry standard three hundred (300) or three hundred thirty-gallon concrete tanks with concrete lids sealed to tanks with mastic concrete sealant. All lids must have minimum eighteen-inch diameter manhole opening to ground level for access. Risers must be sealed at concrete lid to prevent water infiltration. Manhole lids must be of industry standard for the diameter riser used and must seal to prevent water infiltration or sewage gas release; or,
 2. Fiberglass basins with anti-flotation flange, however, it must be a minimum size of forty-eight (48) inches × forty-eight (48) inches, with the lid being at ground level. A fiberglass cover must be sealed to the basin with rubber gasket and bolted down using only stainless bolts.

(10) *Filters:* On all on-site wastewater systems installed within the drainage basin after December 31, 2004, there shall be installed therein, by a contractor, an effluent filter and risers on front and back lids (inlet and outlet ends of the tank). All such effluent filters must be listed by the NSF as meeting the NSF/ANSI standard 46 "evaluation of components and devices used in wastewater treatment systems." All such effluent filters must be properly sized for such system in accordance with the filter manufacturer's recommendations. The substantial repair or replacement of the tank or replacement of the field lines of a failing conventional onsite wastewater system shall include the installation of a filter and risers on front and back lids (inlet and outlet ends of the tank).

(11) *Alternative systems:* It shall be unlawful to install or use a conventional on-site wastewater system on any property within the drainage basin that has failed to meet the health department's requirements for determining if the property is suitable for such a system. Under such circumstances, only an alternative on-site wastewater system may be installed by a contractor. Such alternative system shall utilize a pretreatment process recognized and approved by the board and the health department. All alternative systems shall include risers on front and back lids (inlets and outlets of tank) to facilitate access and maintenance.

(12) *Failing on-site wastewater system:* A failing on-site wastewater system within the drainage basin is one which no longer effectively or efficiently treats wastewater effluent or one which is failing to contain wastewater effluent by allowing the same to be discharged to the ground surface.

(a) *Reports:* All repairs or replacement of any major component of a failing system shall be reported to the lakes division and the owner shall obtain a health department permit for repair. Once the repair is made, a report detailing the repairs shall be made by the contractor and provided by the owner to the health department and lakes division. A periodic visit may be made by health department or lakes division personnel in order to follow-up and assure that the repair or service is successful.

(b) *Testing:* Prior to the repair or replacement of any major component of a failing conventional on-site wastewater system, if required by the health department, the owner shall have conducted, by a qualified and recognized professional, test on the property at the site of such system in accordance with the requirements of the health department for the purpose of determining if the property is suitable for a conventional on-site wastewater system. Copies of all such tests shall be provided to the health department and the lakes division. If such tests demonstrate the property is not suitable for such a system, it shall be unlawful to repair such system or continue to operate or utilize the same.

Under such circumstances, only an alternative on-site wastewater system may be installed on the property in accordance with subsection (9) above.

All such failing systems shall be tested and immediately repaired or replaced by an alternative on-site wastewater system as required herein. The substantial repair or replacement of the tank or replacement of the field lines of a failing conventional on-site wastewater system shall include the installation of a filter and risers on front and back lids (inlet and outlet ends of the tank). A certificate by the contractor that repaired or replaced such system, detailing the nature and extent of the same, shall be provided by the owner to the health department and the lakes division.

(13) *Portable toilets:* Except as otherwise permitted by health department rules, during the construction of a structure or facility pursuant to a building permit duly issued by the chief building official of the City of Tuscaloosa or if installed and maintained by the city or except by special permit authorized by the City Council of the City of Tuscaloosa for certain events of limited duration, it shall be unlawful to install, use, or place a portable toilet or holding tank within the drainage basin.

(14) *Restrictions:* Public or private package wastewater treatment plants which require an NPDES permit, wastewater treatment systems that serve more than one user, sewage lagoons or decentralized systems are prohibited within the drainage basin except upon the approval of the health department and the City Council of the City of Tuscaloosa.

15) *Written notice required:* The director of the water and sewer department or his designated representative shall send a written notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the service date and/or initial service date each year by the United States mail, to the last known address of each person, firm, or corporation who owns, controls, or utilizes an onsite wastewater system and/or associate pump grinders or pumps within the drainage basin.

(16) *Violations:* It shall be unlawful to fail to register as required in subsection It shall be unlawful to install, maintain, and/or operate an on-site wastewater system and/or associated pumps or pump grinders upon any property within the drainage basin in violation of any requirement of this section or that has not been approved by the health department for that purpose.

It shall be unlawful for an owner or a contractor to provide false or fraudulent certification to the lakes division or the department of health in regard to the status or condition of any on-site wastewater system within the drainage basin."

(17) *Failure to maintain:* It shall be unlawful to install, maintain, and/or operate an on-site wastewater system and/or associated pumps or pump grinders within the drainage basin in such a manner as to permit or allow the discharge or overflow of wastewater from to the ground surface or into any public waters.