

Georgia Commercial Contractor Septic Practice Exam Sample Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What determines the sizing of residential septic systems?**
 - A. The type of household waste**
 - B. The soil quality**
 - C. The estimated peak daily sewage flow**
 - D. The size of the family**
- 2. What is the setback distance for a septic tank from crawl spaces or foundations?**
 - A. 25 Ft**
 - B. 10 Ft**
 - C. 15 Ft**
 - D. 50 Ft**
- 3. What standard should all solid pipe in on-site sewage disposal systems meet?**
 - A. Schedule 40 PVC or equivalent**
 - B. Flexible PVC standards**
 - C. Single-wall HDPE standards**
 - D. Any standard approved by local authorities**
- 4. True or False: If a dosing tank uses two chambers, they must have two 4-inch holes located no more than 12 inches from the tank bottom.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only if using siphons**
 - D. Only if using pumps**
- 5. What is the maximum liquid depth for a larger poured in place tank?**
 - A. 48 Inches**
 - B. 54 Inches**
 - C. 60 Inches**
 - D. 66 Inches**

- 6. What documents might need to be submitted to a permitting agency for septic installation?**
- A. Site evaluations, plans, and permits**
 - B. Tax records and ownership deeds**
 - C. Environmental impact assessments only**
 - D. Contractor licenses and insurance papers**
- 7. What factor is essential for ensuring the longevity of a septic system?**
- A. Regular pumping and maintenance**
 - B. Using only chemical additives**
 - C. Avoiding site evaluations**
 - D. Increasing water usage**
- 8. What is the purpose of a septic tank?**
- A. To separate solids from liquids and begin the treatment of wastewater**
 - B. To store drinking water for future use**
 - C. To filter and recycle used water**
 - D. To hold stormwater runoff during heavy rains**
- 9. What could be the result of ignoring future wastewater flow during system planning?**
- A. Increased property taxes**
 - B. System overload and failure**
 - C. Improved environmental impact**
 - D. Enhanced operational efficiency**
- 10. How far must a septic tank be from a driveway or sidewalk?**
- A. 15 Ft**
 - B. 10 Ft**
 - C. 25 Ft**
 - D. 50 Ft**

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. D
6. A
7. A
8. A
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

1. What determines the sizing of residential septic systems?

- A. The type of household waste
- B. The soil quality
- C. The estimated peak daily sewage flow**
- D. The size of the family

The sizing of residential septic systems primarily depends on the estimated peak daily sewage flow. This measurement reflects the amount of wastewater generated by the household on a daily basis, which is crucial in designing a system that can effectively handle the waste produced. If the system is undersized for the peak flow, it can lead to system failure, backups, and pollution of the surrounding environment. A proper assessment of peak daily sewage flow takes into account various factors, such as the number of bathrooms, the presence of water-using appliances, and the general usage habits of the household. This ensures that the septic system has sufficient capacity to handle maximum demand, maintaining functionality and compliance with health and sanitation regulations. Other aspects, such as the type of household waste, soil quality, and family size, do play roles in the overall septic system design and installation, but they are secondary to understanding and accurately estimating peak daily sewage flow. Soil quality influences the absorption and treatment of effluent, while family size can contribute to overall usage habits, yet the primary determinant for sizing remains the expected flow of wastewater to ensure the system operates effectively without risk of overflow or failure.

2. What is the setback distance for a septic tank from crawl spaces or foundations?

- A. 25 Ft
- B. 10 Ft**
- C. 15 Ft
- D. 50 Ft

The setback distance for a septic tank from crawl spaces or foundations is established to ensure proper drainage and to protect the integrity of the structures nearby. In Georgia, the required distance is typically set at 10 feet. This distance minimizes the risk of contamination in the structure's foundation and crawl space area while also allowing for safe access and maintenance of the septic system. A setback of 10 feet is sufficient to ensure that any liquid effluent from the septic tank does not negatively impact the below-ground structures and provides an adequate buffer to account for groundwater movement. Understanding this regulation is essential for those involved in septic system installation and maintenance, as following these guidelines helps promote health and safety while adhering to state laws.

3. What standard should all solid pipe in on-site sewage disposal systems meet?

- A. Schedule 40 PVC or equivalent**
- B. Flexible PVC standards**
- C. Single-wall HDPE standards**
- D. Any standard approved by local authorities**

The standard that all solid pipe in on-site sewage disposal systems should meet is Schedule 40 PVC or its equivalent. This requirement is rooted in the need for durability, structural integrity, and resistance to the corrosive nature of wastewater. Schedule 40 PVC pipe is recognized for its ability to withstand pressure and external loads, making it suitable for the varying conditions in which sewage systems operate. Using Schedule 40 or an equivalent standard ensures that the pipe can handle the demands of the waste being transported, preventing leaks and failures that could lead to environmental contamination. The integrity of sewage disposal systems is critical for public health and safeguarding water resources, which is why specific standards like Schedule 40 are emphasized in regulations. While other options such as flexible PVC or single-wall HDPE may have their uses in different applications, they do not meet the established durability requirements set forth for solid pipe in sewage disposal systems. Moreover, relying on any standard approved by local authorities could lead to inconsistencies and potentially compromise system performance since localized standards may not always align with best practices designed to ensure structural resilience and functionality.

4. True or False: If a dosing tank uses two chambers, they must have two 4-inch holes located no more than 12 inches from the tank bottom.

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Only if using siphons**
- D. Only if using pumps**

The statement is true because it aligns with best practices and regulations pertaining to the installation of dosing tanks in septic systems. In a dosing tank that features two chambers, having two 4-inch holes positioned no more than 12 inches from the bottom of the tank ensures that the effluent can be effectively dosed and managed. This configuration allows for proper mixing and prevents the accumulation of solids at the bottom of the tank, which is crucial for maintaining system efficiency and preventing clogs. Furthermore, the specified hole size and placement are essential for the appropriate flow dynamics within the system, whether it operates by gravity or with assistance from pumps or siphons. Implementing these design elements contributes to the overall functionality and longevity of the septic system.

5. What is the maximum liquid depth for a larger poured in place tank?

- A. 48 Inches**
- B. 54 Inches**
- C. 60 Inches**
- D. 66 Inches**

The maximum liquid depth for a larger poured-in-place septic tank is 66 inches. This specification is important because it ensures that the tank operates effectively, allowing for proper treatment of wastewater and minimizing the risk of overflows or system failures. The design and construction of septic tanks must adhere to specific regulations and guidelines that outline dimensions, capacities, and waste management needs to meet health and environmental standards. Understanding this maximum depth is crucial for contractors during installation and maintenance since exceeding the prescribed liquid depth can lead to issues such as inadequate separation of solids and liquids, which is essential for the biological processes involved in wastewater treatment. A tank designed for a maximum of 66 inches allows for sufficient volume while managing the hydraulic load, ultimately contributing to the overall efficiency and longevity of the septic system.

6. What documents might need to be submitted to a permitting agency for septic installation?

- A. Site evaluations, plans, and permits**
- B. Tax records and ownership deeds**
- C. Environmental impact assessments only**
- D. Contractor licenses and insurance papers**

The necessity of submitting site evaluations, plans, and permits to a permitting agency for septic installation is crucial for ensuring proper compliance with regulations and standards. Site evaluations are conducted to assess the soil conditions, drainage, and other environmental factors that influence the feasibility and design of a septic system. These evaluations help determine the appropriate type of septic system that can be installed safely on the property. Plans are essential as they provide a detailed layout of the proposed septic system, outlining its specific components, location, and how it will interact with the surrounding environment. This information allows the permitting agency to evaluate whether the proposed installation meets health and safety standards and local codes. Permits are official approvals required before any work can begin on the installation. They demonstrate that the contractor has met all legal requirements and that the proposed installation is safe for the environment and public health. Other options may include documents that are relevant in different contexts but do not specifically pertain to the immediate requirements for septic installation. Tax records and ownership deeds concern property ownership but do not directly address the technical or regulatory aspects of septic system installation. Environmental impact assessments, while important in assessing broader ecological effects, are not typically required for every septic installation. Contractor licenses and insurance papers are necessary for general contractor qualifications but are not

7. What factor is essential for ensuring the longevity of a septic system?

- A. Regular pumping and maintenance**
- B. Using only chemical additives**
- C. Avoiding site evaluations**
- D. Increasing water usage**

Regular pumping and maintenance are fundamental for ensuring the longevity of a septic system because they help to prevent the buildup of sludge and scum within the tank. Over time, solid waste accumulates, and if it is not removed, it can lead to blockages, system failures, and costly repairs. By adhering to a regular maintenance schedule, which typically involves pumping the septic tank every three to five years depending on usage and household size, homeowners can significantly extend the lifespan of their system. Routine inspections as part of maintenance allow for the early detection of issues, such as leaks or signs of malfunctions in the drain field, which can be addressed before they escalate into more serious problems. In addition, maintenance activities often include checking for any structural integrity issues, ensuring that all components are working correctly, and that water is flowing as intended. In contrast, relying solely on chemical additives does not address the physical buildup of solids and may even disrupt the natural bacterial processes that are essential for breaking down organic waste in the septic tank. Avoiding site evaluations can lead to improper system installation or issues with soil absorption, critically affecting the system's function. Increasing water usage can overwhelm the septic system, leading to failure and premature replacement. Overall, regular pumping and maintenance are essential practices

8. What is the purpose of a septic tank?

- A. To separate solids from liquids and begin the treatment of wastewater**
- B. To store drinking water for future use**
- C. To filter and recycle used water**
- D. To hold stormwater runoff during heavy rains**

The purpose of a septic tank is to separate solids from liquids and begin the treatment of wastewater. This process is fundamental to how septic systems operate. In a typical septic tank, wastewater from a residence flows in and is allowed to settle. The heavier solids sink to the bottom to form sludge, while lighter materials, like fats and grease, rise to the top as scum. As the wastewater sits in the tank, anaerobic bacteria break down some of the organic matter, initiating the treatment process before the effluent is sent to a drain field for further treatment and filtration into the soil. This separation and initial treatment are essential for managing domestic wastewater safely and effectively, preventing contamination of groundwater and the surrounding environment. The other options do not align with the primary function of a septic tank. Storing drinking water, filtering and recycling used water, or holding stormwater runoff are functions not related to the operation and purpose of septic tanks. Thus, understanding this core function is crucial for anyone involved in septic system installation and maintenance.

9. What could be the result of ignoring future wastewater flow during system planning?

- A. Increased property taxes**
- B. System overload and failure**
- C. Improved environmental impact**
- D. Enhanced operational efficiency**

Ignoring future wastewater flow during system planning can lead to system overload and failure. When a septic system is designed without accounting for potential increases in wastewater volume—such as from expansion of the property, additional buildings, or increased occupancy—the current capacity may become insufficient. This can result in the system being overwhelmed by the volume of wastewater it needs to process. An overloaded septic system can lead to various problems, including backups, leaks, and the release of untreated wastewater into the environment. This not only poses health risks but can also cause significant damage to infrastructure and natural ecosystems. Thus, proper planning must consider projected future usage to ensure that the system can adequately handle the anticipated flow, preventing potential failures and associated costs down the line.

10. How far must a septic tank be from a driveway or sidewalk?

- A. 15 Ft**
- B. 10 Ft**
- C. 25 Ft**
- D. 50 Ft**

The proper distance for a septic tank from a driveway or sidewalk is 10 feet. This requirement helps to ensure adequate space for maintenance access while also minimizing the risk of the tank being disturbed by traffic or vibrations from vehicles. Septic tanks need to be positioned away from high-traffic areas to prevent any potential damage from vehicles and to maintain the integrity of the system. Additionally, this distance helps to protect public health and safety, as it reduces the likelihood of accidental contamination or discharge. Choosing a distance of 10 feet strikes a balance between accessibility and safety, ensuring that maintenance personnel can easily reach the system when necessary while also complying with regulations designed to protect both the tank and surrounding structures.