

Georgia Septic Installer Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What is the maximum allowable variance in emitter line installation within any linear 100 feet?**
 - A. 2 inches**
 - B. 4 inches**
 - C. 6 inches**
 - D. 8 inches**
- 2. What is the minimum flexural strength of a fiberglass tank?**
 - A. 15,000 PSI**
 - B. 19,000 PSI**
 - C. 20,000 PSI**
 - D. 25,000 PSI**
- 3. What should not be done when excavating absorption trenches?**
 - A. Use heavy machinery**
 - B. Work during dry weather**
 - C. Excavate when wet**
 - D. Follow local regulations**
- 4. What should be used when a septic tank cover is more than 12 inches below grade?**
 - A. Concrete slab**
 - B. Septic tank riser**
 - C. Access door**
 - D. Septic tank lid**
- 5. True or false: All precast tanks must bear an imprint cast or stamped in the right of the outlet?**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only for tanks over a certain size**
 - D. Depends on local regulations**

- 6. What is the typical liquid capacity of a septic tank for single-family dwellings with two to four bedrooms?**
- A. 750 gallons**
 - B. 1000 gallons**
 - C. 1250 gallons**
 - D. 1500 gallons**
- 7. What is the role of the overflow port in molded plastic and fiberglass drop boxes?**
- A. To allow excess water to escape**
 - B. To collect solid waste**
 - C. To monitor water levels**
 - D. To filter contaminants**
- 8. What percentage of the total interior volume of the absorption lines does the volume of the dosing tank need to be?**
- A. 40-50%**
 - B. 50-60%**
 - C. 60-75%**
 - D. 75-85%**
- 9. What type of piping should be used for all sewer fittings beginning at the house?**
- A. Schedule 20 PVC with a minimum of 3-inch diameter**
 - B. Schedule 40 PVC with a minimum of 4-inch diameter**
 - C. Iron piping with a minimum of 5-inch diameter**
 - D. Schedule 30 PVC with a minimum of 2-inch diameter**
- 10. What is required for dosing tanks when more than 1000ft of absorption trench is needed?**
- A. Single pump configuration**
 - B. Alternating siphons or pumps**
 - C. Gravity flow system only**
 - D. Backup cisterns**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What is the maximum allowable variance in emitter line installation within any linear 100 feet?

- A. 2 inches**
- B. 4 inches**
- C. 6 inches**
- D. 8 inches**

The maximum allowable variance in emitter line installation within any linear 100 feet is 6 inches. This standard is crucial for ensuring the uniform distribution of wastewater and preventing potential issues with the septic system's overall functionality. A consistent emitter line allows for an even flow, which helps to optimize the performance of the septic or drainage system. If the variance exceeds 6 inches, it could lead to areas of uneven distribution, which in turn may cause ponding, insufficient treatment of wastewater, or even system failure. Adhering to this standard ensures compliance with best practices and local regulations, promoting the longevity and effectiveness of the septic system. The specified variance is designed to provide a balance between flexibility in installation and the necessity for maintaining system integrity.

2. What is the minimum flexural strength of a fiberglass tank?

- A. 15,000 PSI**
- B. 19,000 PSI**
- C. 20,000 PSI**
- D. 25,000 PSI**

The minimum flexural strength of a fiberglass tank is particularly important because it indicates the tank's ability to withstand bending forces without failing. This property is crucial in ensuring the structural integrity of the tank when it is in use and exposed to various pressures and environmental conditions. A flexural strength of 19,000 PSI is a standard that ensures the tank can handle the expected loads during its operational life while providing durability and longevity. Tanks that meet or exceed this strength are generally regarded as suitable for holding wastewater and other materials, reducing the likelihood of failure. This threshold helps ensure that installations can occur safely and in compliance with relevant standards and regulations.

3. What should not be done when excavating absorption trenches?

- A. Use heavy machinery**
- B. Work during dry weather**
- C. Excavate when wet**
- D. Follow local regulations**

Excavating when wet is not advisable because wet soil conditions can lead to several issues that negatively impact the installation of absorption trenches. When soil is saturated, it becomes more difficult to dig, and the risk of the walls of the trench collapsing increases, which can create unsafe working conditions. Additionally, wet soil can lead to improper compaction and support for the septic system, potentially resulting in failure of the system in the long term. Furthermore, excavating during wet conditions can cause soil to clump and stick to machinery, making the trench walls uneven and more challenging to shape properly. This could subsequently affect the percolation of effluent from a septic system into the surrounding soil, which is crucial for effective wastewater treatment. Proper site conditions are essential during installation to ensure the septic system operates effectively and complies with local regulations.

4. What should be used when a septic tank cover is more than 12 inches below grade?

- A. Concrete slab**
- B. Septic tank riser**
- C. Access door**
- D. Septic tank lid**

When a septic tank cover is more than 12 inches below grade, a septic tank riser is the appropriate solution. A riser is a vertical extension that connects the septic tank access opening to the ground surface, ensuring that the cover of the tank is accessible for maintenance and inspections without the need for extensive digging. Using a riser enhances safety and convenience for technicians who service the septic system, enabling them to reach the tank easily and perform necessary tasks such as pumping and inspections. It also helps in maintaining proper functioning of the septic system by ensuring that any maintenance can be done without significant disruption to the surrounding area. Other options may not provide the necessary access or may not comply with installation standards. For example, a concrete slab or an access door may not be designed for such applications, and a standard septic tank lid might not suffice when dealing with deeper installations. Overall, the riser is specifically designed for this purpose and fits regulatory guidelines for septic system installations.

5. True or false: All precast tanks must bear an imprint cast or stamped in the right of the outlet?

A. True

B. False

C. Only for tanks over a certain size

D. Depends on local regulations

The statement regarding precast tanks must indeed bear an imprint cast or stamped in the right of the outlet is true. This requirement is pivotal for ensuring that the installation and inspection processes are standardized and traceable. The imprint provides crucial information such as the manufacturer's name, the tank's certification, and the size, which facilitates compliance with health and safety regulations. Including this information directly on the tank itself also aids installers and inspectors in verifying that the tank meets the required specifications and standards right on site. It's part of the broader regulatory framework designed to ensure the integrity and safety of septic systems, contributing to their proper functioning and longevity. The other options introduce conditions that do not align with the established standards regarding precast tanks, as the requirement is applicable universally across all precast tanks, irrespective of their size or local regulations.

6. What is the typical liquid capacity of a septic tank for single-family dwellings with two to four bedrooms?

A. 750 gallons

B. 1000 gallons

C. 1250 gallons

D. 1500 gallons

The typical liquid capacity of a septic tank for single-family dwellings with two to four bedrooms is generally 1,000 gallons. This size is established based on the expected average daily sewage flow for a household of this size, ensuring that the tank can adequately hold the wastewater generated from daily activities such as bathing, cooking, and toilet use. This 1,000-gallon capacity allows for effective treatment of the sewage, providing a sufficient volume for solids to settle and for bacteria to break down waste. Proper sizing is crucial to prevent overflow and ensure the septic system functions effectively over time. It also helps mitigate issues such as groundwater contamination and system failure, which can arise from inadequate tank capacity.

7. What is the role of the overflow port in molded plastic and fiberglass drop boxes?

- A. To allow excess water to escape**
- B. To collect solid waste**
- C. To monitor water levels**
- D. To filter contaminants**

The overflow port in molded plastic and fiberglass drop boxes is primarily designed to allow excess water to escape. This function is critical in managing the flow of effluent within the septic system, ensuring that if the liquid levels rise too high—perhaps due to inflow exceeding outflow—the system can prevent potential backup or overflow that could lead to failures or environmental contamination. By providing a means for excess liquid to exit the system safely, the overflow port maintains the proper operation and health of the septic system, protecting both the infrastructure and the surrounding environment. While monitoring water levels, filtering contaminants, and collecting solid waste are crucial functions within a septic system, they are handled by other components or mechanisms rather than the overflow port itself. The primary purpose of the overflow port is efficient liquid management rather than monitoring, filtering, or solid waste collection. This distinction underlines why understanding the specific function of the overflow port is essential for proper septic system management.

8. What percentage of the total interior volume of the absorption lines does the volume of the dosing tank need to be?

- A. 40-50%**
- B. 50-60%**
- C. 60-75%**
- D. 75-85%**

The answer pertaining to the required percentage of the total interior volume of the absorption lines that the volume of the dosing tank needs to be is based on the principles of effective septic system design. For optimal performance, the volume of the dosing tank should be 60-75% of the total interior volume of the absorption lines. This range ensures that there is sufficient capacity in the dosing tank to adequately manage and control the flow of effluent into the absorption lines. It allows for effective dosing, which is crucial for proper distribution and prevents potential issues such as overloading the absorption area, which can lead to system failure. By adhering to this percentage, the design facilitates adequate absorption of effluent, promoting proper treatment and minimizing the risk of contamination or system backups. When considering other ranges, such as 40-50% or 50-60%, these might not provide enough volume in the dosing tank to effectively manage the flow, while percentages higher than 75% could create an imbalance in the septic system design, potentially leading to issues with adequate effluent dispersal.

9. What type of piping should be used for all sewer fittings beginning at the house?

- A. Schedule 20 PVC with a minimum of 3-inch diameter**
- B. Schedule 40 PVC with a minimum of 4-inch diameter**
- C. Iron piping with a minimum of 5-inch diameter**
- D. Schedule 30 PVC with a minimum of 2-inch diameter**

Using Schedule 40 PVC with a minimum of 4-inch diameter for all sewer fittings beginning at the house is essential for several reasons. Schedule 40 PVC piping is designed for higher pressure and is generally more durable than Schedule 20 or Schedule 30, making it more suitable for the demands of sewer systems where the flow conditions can vary and may include solids. The 4-inch diameter requirement is important too, as this size is standard for residential sewer drains, ensuring that it can adequately handle the volume of wastewater generated by a household while reducing the risk of clogs. Larger diameters become essential in sewer systems to facilitate smoother flow and accommodate potential blockages. In comparison, other options do not meet industry standards and regulations for sewer systems, potentially causing problems like inadequate flow, increased risk of backflow, and inability to handle the waste materials typically found in sewage.

10. What is required for dosing tanks when more than 1000ft of absorption trench is needed?

- A. Single pump configuration**
- B. Alternating siphons or pumps**
- C. Gravity flow system only**
- D. Backup cisterns**

When there is a requirement for more than 1000 feet of absorption trench, using alternating siphons or pumps is essential to ensure efficient distribution of effluent. This setup allows for a more balanced and controlled discharge of wastewater into the absorption area. Alternating systems help prevent the trench from being overloaded at any one point, promoting even wear throughout the system and preventing saturation or failure of any particular section. Additionally, alternating siphons or pumps can maintain consistent pressure and flow rates, which are critical for the effective operation of large absorption systems. This means the system can manage variations in flow and prevent blockages, thus extending its lifespan and functionality. In many cases, alternative methods like gravity flow systems may not be viable or efficient for longer runs of absorption trenches due to the need for elevation changes. Therefore, a well-designed dosing system with alternating mechanisms is necessary to effectively manage the wastewater in extensive absorption systems.