

Illinois Private Sewage Contractor Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. What is a key factor that influences the longevity of a septic system?**
 - A. Soil type surrounding the system**
 - B. Seasonal weather patterns**
 - C. Frequency of use and maintenance**
 - D. Design and layout of the house**

- 2. The aeration tank volume for commercial applications is supposed to be how many times greater than the average daily flow?**
 - A. 2 times**
 - B. 3 times**
 - C. 4 times**
 - D. 5 times**

- 3. What is the minimum pit capacity in cubic feet per seat for privies?**
 - A. 25 Cubic Feet**
 - B. 50 Cubic Feet**
 - C. 75 Cubic Feet**
 - D. 100 Cubic Feet**

- 4. How many rows of openings are required for perforated tile?**
 - A. One row**
 - B. Two rows**
 - C. Three rows**
 - D. Four rows**

- 5. Which entity is responsible for enforcing the Private Sewage Disposal Code in Illinois?**
 - A. The Environmental Protection Agency**
 - B. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources**
 - C. The Illinois Department of Public Health**
 - D. The State Attorney General's Office**

- 6. Which type of sewage treatment system includes components like septic tanks and aerobic treatment plants?**
- A. Grit Chambers**
 - B. Approved Private Sewage Disposal Systems**
 - C. Chemical Toilets**
 - D. Composter Systems**
- 7. Collection lines need to have a slope of how many inches per 100 feet?**
- A. 4 inches**
 - B. 6 inches**
 - C. 8 inches**
 - D. 10 inches**
- 8. What is the maximum population equivalent for a facility to be classified as a private sewage disposal system?**
- A. 5 people**
 - B. 10 people**
 - C. 15 people**
 - D. 20 people**
- 9. If a tank has a liquid depth of 60 inches, how many inches must the outlet baffle extend below the liquid level?**
- A. 18 inches**
 - B. 21 inches**
 - C. 24 inches**
 - D. 30 inches**
- 10. Why is as-built documentation important for a septic system?**
- A. It provides a summary of household water usage**
 - B. It records the design and installation of the system**
 - C. It lists the materials used in construction**
 - D. It outlines future landscaping plans**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a key factor that influences the longevity of a septic system?

- A. Soil type surrounding the system**
- B. Seasonal weather patterns**
- C. Frequency of use and maintenance**
- D. Design and layout of the house**

The frequency of use and maintenance is a crucial factor that significantly influences the longevity of a septic system. Regular maintenance includes tasks such as pumping the tank to remove accumulated solids, inspecting the system for any signs of failure, and ensuring that the drainage field is functioning properly. If a septic system is not maintained regularly, it can lead to clogs, backups, and even complete system failure, which would require costly repairs or replacement. Proper use also plays a role; for example, excessive water usage can overload the system and lead to premature failure. By adhering to a regular maintenance schedule and taking care not to overload the system, homeowners can greatly enhance the lifespan of their septic systems. While soil type, seasonal weather patterns, and the design and layout of the house are important considerations that can also impact a system's performance, they do not have as direct an effect on longevity as the regularity of maintenance and usage do.

2. The aeration tank volume for commercial applications is supposed to be how many times greater than the average daily flow?

- A. 2 times**
- B. 3 times**
- C. 4 times**
- D. 5 times**

In commercial applications, the aeration tank volume is designed to be three times greater than the average daily flow. This is based on the need to provide sufficient time for the aeration process to effectively break down organic material and facilitate proper microbial action. The increased volume allows for better oxygen transfer and ensures that the microorganisms have adequate space and time to treat the wastewater thoroughly. By having a tank volume that is three times the average daily flow, the system can efficiently manage peak flow variations and maintain optimal operating conditions, which is essential for effective treatment and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. This ratio helps in balancing the treatment process, especially in commercial settings where wastewater characteristics can fluctuate significantly throughout the day.

3. What is the minimum pit capacity in cubic feet per seat for privies?

- A. 25 Cubic Feet**
- B. 50 Cubic Feet**
- C. 75 Cubic Feet**
- D. 100 Cubic Feet**

The minimum pit capacity for privies is established to ensure proper waste management and sanitation. A capacity of 50 cubic feet per seat is the standard to accommodate waste and prevent overflow, which is essential for maintaining hygiene and preventing potential health hazards. This capacity allows for adequate space to hold the waste generated between cleanings, reducing the frequency of emptying and minimizing the risk of odors and seepage into the surrounding environment. In the context of sanitation regulations, settings with a capacity below this threshold may not provide sufficient volume for effective waste containment, particularly in high-use scenarios. Therefore, the requirement of 50 cubic feet is a key benchmark in ensuring safe and responsible waste disposal practices for privies.

4. How many rows of openings are required for perforated tile?

- A. One row**
- B. Two rows**
- C. Three rows**
- D. Four rows**

The requirement for arranging perforated tile specifies that a system should have two rows of openings. This configuration allows for efficient drainage and optimal water flow, which is essential for maintaining the proper function of a subsurface drainage system. In a two-row system, the perforations facilitate adequate infiltration and help prevent clogging, allowing for effective management of groundwater and reducing the risk of backflow or saturation in the surrounding soil. Having one row might not provide sufficient drainage capacity, while three or four rows could complicate the design unnecessarily and lead to excess expense without providing additional benefits. Therefore, the two-row standard strikes an ideal balance between effective drainage performance and practical implementation within the standards set by the Illinois regulations.

5. Which entity is responsible for enforcing the Private Sewage Disposal Code in Illinois?

- A. The Environmental Protection Agency**
- B. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources**
- C. The Illinois Department of Public Health**
- D. The State Attorney General's Office**

The Illinois Department of Public Health is the entity tasked with enforcing the Private Sewage Disposal Code in Illinois. This department oversees public health matters, including sanitation and waste management, which are critical elements of private sewage disposal. The enforcement of codes governing private sewage systems is essential for ensuring that these systems are designed, installed, and maintained in a way that protects public health and the environment. The Department of Public Health issues regulations, provides guidance, and ensures compliance through inspections and other enforcement mechanisms related to sewage disposal systems. Understanding the specific role of the Illinois Department of Public Health helps illuminate the importance of regulatory agencies in maintaining public health standards and offering support to private sewage contractors in Illinois. This ensures that wastewater is properly managed, minimizing risks to the community and the environment.

6. Which type of sewage treatment system includes components like septic tanks and aerobic treatment plants?

- A. Grit Chambers**
- B. Approved Private Sewage Disposal Systems**
- C. Chemical Toilets**
- D. Composter Systems**

The correct answer is Approved Private Sewage Disposal Systems because this type of system is designed specifically to treat and manage sewage on-site. Components commonly found in these systems, such as septic tanks and aerobic treatment plants, are crucial for the effective breakdown and treatment of wastewater from residential properties or smaller facilities. Septic tanks serve as the first step in the treatment process, where solids settle out, and anaerobic bacteria help break down organic matter. Following this, aerobic treatment plants enhance the treatment process by using oxygen to further decompose the waste, leading to improved effluent quality before it is discharged to the environment. In contrast, grit chambers are primarily used for removing sand, gravel, and other heavy solids during the preliminary treatment stages of a larger sewage treatment process. Chemical toilets operate using chemicals to treat waste in a portable setting, but they do not involve systems like septic tanks or aerobic treatment plants. Composter systems focus strictly on composting organic waste and are not designed for treating sewage. Thus, Approved Private Sewage Disposal Systems encompass the necessary treatment components for effective waste management.

7. Collection lines need to have a slope of how many inches per 100 feet?

A. 4 inches

B. 6 inches

C. 8 inches

D. 10 inches

The correct slope for collection lines in wastewater systems is 6 inches per 100 feet. This slope ensures adequate gravity flow, which is essential for preventing blockages and maintaining the efficiency of the sewage system. A slope that is neither too steep nor too flat is crucial for the effective transportation of sewage and wastewater to the treatment facility. Having a slope of 6 inches per 100 feet strikes a balance between facilitating proper drainage and minimizing the risk of erosion or excessive wear on the piping system. This design standard helps ensure that the wastewater moves consistently, which is important in avoiding issues such as backups or standing water in the lines. Proper installation according to these guidelines not only ensures compliance with regulations but also enhances the long-term reliability of the sewage system.

8. What is the maximum population equivalent for a facility to be classified as a private sewage disposal system?

A. 5 people

B. 10 people

C. 15 people

D. 20 people

A facility is classified as a private sewage disposal system when it has a maximum population equivalent of 15 people. This classification is important because it determines the system's regulatory requirements and compliance with local health standards. A private sewage disposal system is designed for smaller populations and is commonly used for individual homes, small businesses, or rural areas where public sewer systems are not available. The significance of the population equivalent threshold lies in its role in managing wastewater and ensuring that systems are appropriately sized and constructed to protect public health and the environment. Systems serving a population greater than 15 typically fall under different regulations and may require more sophisticated treatment and disposal methods to handle the increased volume and concentration of wastewater. This classification helps local authorities effectively monitor and regulate sewage disposal practices, making it crucial for public health and environmental protection. Understanding this limit is essential for private sewage contractors when planning and implementing sewage management systems.

9. If a tank has a liquid depth of 60 inches, how many inches must the outlet baffle extend below the liquid level?
- A. 18 inches
 - B. 21 inches
 - C. 24 inches**
 - D. 30 inches

The correct answer is that the outlet baffle must extend 24 inches below the liquid level in a septic tank with a liquid depth of 60 inches. This requirement is in place to ensure proper separation of solids and liquids within the tank and to facilitate effective wastewater treatment. By having the outlet baffle extend below the liquid level by 24 inches, it helps prevent the floating scum layer from escaping the tank, which can disrupt the treatment process and lead to the clogging of the outlet pipe. This dimension allows for adequate depth to maintain effective hydraulic conditions within the tank. Extending the baffle the right distance ensures that only the clarified liquid above the solids is drawn off, thus maintaining the quality of effluent that exits the tank while trapping solids and preventing their movement into the drain field. Overall, this dimension is critical for the system's performance and longevity, aligning with the health and safety standards set forth by regulations governing private sewage systems.

10. Why is as-built documentation important for a septic system?
- A. It provides a summary of household water usage
 - B. It records the design and installation of the system**
 - C. It lists the materials used in construction
 - D. It outlines future landscaping plans

As-built documentation is crucial for a septic system because it accurately records the final design and installation details of the system as it has been constructed. This documentation reflects any changes made during the construction process and provides precise measurements and layouts, including the location of the septic tank, drain field, and any other relevant components. Having this information is essential for several reasons: it aids in future maintenance and repairs by providing a clear picture of the system's configuration; it helps in compliance with local regulations; and it supports property transactions by giving potential buyers essential information about the septic system. This comprehensive overview ensures that anyone working with the system in the future, whether for inspections, repairs, or upgrades, can refer to the correct and most up-to-date specifications.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://ilprivatesewagecontractor.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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