

## CHAPTER 6.16

## CLEANING SEPTIC TANKS, CESSPOOLS AND SEEPAGE PITS

## SECTIONS:

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6.16.050	<b>Repealed - Ord. 176 effective 10/26/87.</b>
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6.16.010 UNLAWFUL DEPOSITS. (a) No person shall place, deposit or dump, or cause to be placed, deposited or dumped, any sewage, sludge or accumulation of human excrement in or upon any property in the County of Benton without first having the same approved by the Health Officer for the Benton-Franklin District Health Department.

(b) No person being the owner of or person in control or possession of any property in the County of Benton shall suffer, permit, or allow the dumping thereon of cleanings of septic tanks, cesspools or sewage seepage pits without first having the same approved for such purposes by the Health Officer for the Benton-Franklin District Health Department.

(c) No person shall for any reason operate or maintain any business for the cleaning of septic tanks, cesspools, or sewage seepage pits unless the same shall have been regularly licensed by the Benton-Franklin District Health Department as herein provided. [Ord. 40 (1955) § 1; Ord. 223 (1988) § 1; Ord. 293 (1996) § 1]

6.16.020 APPLICATION. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any city, town, sanitary district, sewer maintenance district or to any agency or institution of the State or the Federal Government by reason of the cleaning of septic tanks,

cesspools, sewage seepage pits or sewage works which are owned and operated by any of said governmental agencies or institutions.  
[Ord. 40 (1955) ▪ 2]

6.16.030 PERMITS. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person or firm to carry on or engage in the business of the cleaning of septic tanks, cesspools, or sewage seepage pits, or to dispose of the cleanings therefrom in Benton County unless said person or firm shall hold an unrevoked permit issued by the Health Officer of the Benton-Franklin District Health Department or a duly authorized agent thereof as provided in this chapter;

(b) A permit shall be issued annually only after a satisfactory examination by the Health Officer or a duly authorized representative thereof covering the equipment to be used, the applicant's knowledge of sanitary principles and ordinances affecting public health and nuisances, and the reliability of the applicant in observing sanitary laws, ordinances and directions, and in selecting laborers and employees who may clean out septic tanks, cesspools and sewage seepage pits, without endangering human health or comfort; and only after examination of the place or places and manner of disposal of the cleanings proposed by said applicant.

(c) Such a permit may be revoked by the Health Officer upon the violation by the holder of any of the terms of this chapter, or at any time when in the judgment of the Health Officer the operation has become a public health menace, provided that the holder of said permit shall, after complying with such revocation, have the right to appeal to the Benton-Franklin District Board of Health.

(d) The person, firm or corporation seeking a permit shall further provide and maintain an approved place of disposal of all septic wastes and at the time of making application for permit shall set forth the location of the property where said waste shall be taken, which place shall be approved by the Health Officer and subject thereafter to inspection by said Health Officer and to be operated in accordance with the rules and regulations set up by the Health Officer or the State of Washington Board of Health.  
[Ord. 40 (1955) ▪ 3; Ord. 210 (1987) ▪ 1; Ord. 293 (1996) ▪ 2]

6.16.040 LICENSE. (a) All applications for registration under this chapter shall be filed with the Benton-Franklin District Health Department. The application shall state the applicant's name in full, and if a partnership the names of each of the partners, the relation of the applicant to the firm or partnership, the place of business and place of residence of the applicant for permit and of each of the partners in the business, if a partnership. The application shall be signed by the authorized officer of a corporation, if a corporation, or by the managing partner, if a partnership.

(b) At the time of making such application, the applicant shall deposit with the Benton-Franklin District Health Department a non-refundable application fee in an amount established by resolution of the Benton-Franklin District Board of Health to cover the cost of investigation then to be made. If the application is approved, the Benton-Franklin District Health Department may collect an annual license fee in an amount established by resolution of the Benton-Franklin District Health Department for a license to operate a business for the cleaning of septic tanks, cesspools or sewage seepage pits.

(c) Immediately upon receipt of such application the Health Officer shall cause an inspection to be made of the equipment to be used, the applicant's knowledge of sanitary principles and ordinances affecting public health and nuisances, and the reliability of the applicant in observing sanitary laws, ordinances and directions, and in selecting laborers and employees who may clean out septic tanks, cesspools and sewage seepage pits, without endangering human health or comfort, and the place or places and manner of disposal of the cleanings proposed by said applicant. If said findings do not comply with the provisions of this chapter and health regulations and requirements, the Health Officer shall reject the application.

[Ord. 40 (1955) § 4; Ord. 210 (1987) § 2; Ord. 293 (1996) § 3]

6.16.060 VIOLATIONS - PENALTIES. Every person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[Ord. 40 (1955) § 6; Ord. 210 (1987) § 4; Ord. 214 (1987) § 1; Ord. 223 (1988) § 2]

6.16.070 HEALTH OFFICER'S DUTIES. (a) Applicants may secure permits under such terms, conditions, orders and directions as the Health Officer for the Benton-Franklin District Health Department or its duly authorized representatives may deem necessary for the protection of human health and comfort. The Health Officer and its duly authorized representatives are hereby empowered to require any and all persons who are registered with the Benton-Franklin District Health Department to clean septic tanks, cesspools or sewage pits or to dispose of the cleanings therefrom, to file with the said Health Officer at any time and at such frequency or intervals as said Health Officer may desire, a statement giving the name and address of the owner or tenant of each and every one of the premises where a septic tank, cesspool or seepage pit shall have been cleaned out by said registrant or registrant's employees or by others on registrant's behalf, and said statement shall also describe in precise terms the place where the cleanings shall have been disposed of and by whom. The Health Officer for the Benton-Franklin District Health Department is empowered to require such statements to be sworn to before a notary public.

(b) A change of address of any registrant, including a member of a partnership which has a permit and of the place of business thereof, shall be reported in writing by registered mail by the operator within five (5) days after the said change of address. [Ord. 40 (1955) § 7; Ord. 293 (1996) § 4]

(RESERVED)