

EPA Bans Two Types of Waste Disposal Systems

01-General
 April, 2000

NOTICE TO LOCAL OFFICIALS

New Requirement

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently banned the construction of **NEW Large Capacity Cesspools** and **NEW Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells** across the United States including Indian Country.

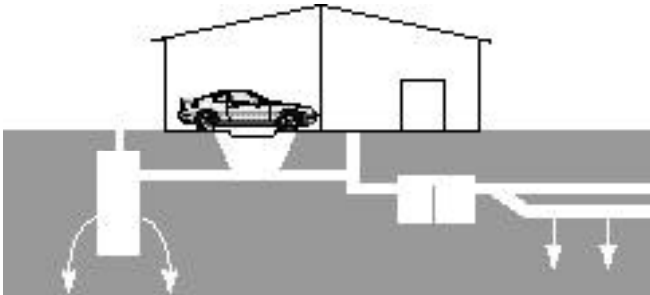
Purpose of the Ban

These two waste disposal systems have a large potential to contaminate underground sources of drinking water. This new rule will prevent contamination, decrease environmental liability, and protect public health by eliminating disposal of wastes through these systems.

What You Can Do

We need your assistance to implement this new rule. Successful implementation may necessitate modifying local codes and ordinances, discontinuing the permitting/authorization of these systems, and providing notification to the affected facility owners to discontinue the construction of these systems.

EPA Bans NEW Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells Nationwide as of April 5, 2000



Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells are shallow waste water disposal systems (septic systems, cesspools or drywells) that receive or have received fluids from vehicle repair or maintenance activities often through floor drains or wash basins in the service facilities.

Facilities that might have a motor vehicle waste disposal well include: service stations, auto body repair shops, new and/or used auto dealerships, specialty repair shops such as transmission, brake and muffler repair, fire stations, county or municipal garages, or any facility that performs vehicle repair work.

Note: Motor vehicles include but are not limited to: automobiles, trucks, trains, farm machinery, airplanes, recreational vehicles, boats, etc.

BANNED as of April 5, 2000:

- ✓ New construction of floor drains, or other drains, tied to septic systems or dry wells which may receive waste generated from vehicle repairs or maintenance.

EPA Bans NEW Large Capacity Cesspools Nationwide as of April 5, 2000

A **Cesspool** is a drywell that receives untreated sanitary waste containing human excreta, which sometimes has an open bottom and/or perforated sides, and is usually completed above the water table so that its bottom and sides are typically dry except when receiving fluids.

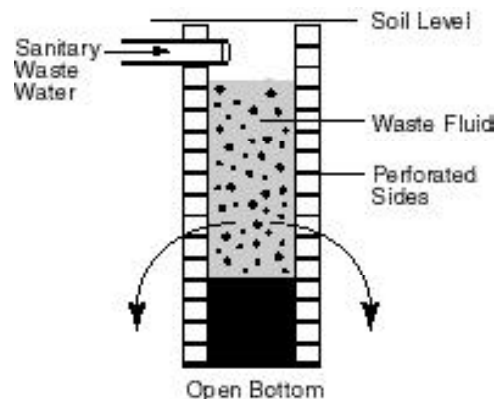
EPA defines **large capacity cesspools** as:

1. Any **residential** cesspool used by a multiple dwelling, community or regional system for the disposal of sanitary wastes (for example: a duplex or apartment building) or,
2. Any **non-residential** cesspool that has the capacity to serve 20 or more people per day (for example: a rest stop, restaurant or church).

Note: States may use a different set of criteria to define "Large Capacity", such as flow rate.

BANNED as of April 5, 2000:

- ✓ New construction of large capacity cesspools.



Some States have already banned Large Capacity Cesspools. In States where currently allowed, existing systems must be closed by April 5, 2005.

Where Do I Get More Information?

REGULATORY INFORMATION SOURCES

USEPA Hotline (800) 426-4791 <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic.html>
Ground Water Protection Council (405) 516-4972 <http://gwpc.site.net>
State Agency Contact Web Site <http://gwpc.site.net/classvrule/contact.htm>

These new requirements were adopted by the EPA on December 7, 1999. The text of the regulations is found in Vol. 64 of the Federal Register starting at page 68545.

HOW DOES THE BAN AFFECT YOU AS A LOCAL OFFICIAL?

- ✓ If you are responsible for **permitting / authorizing** new floor drains, septic systems, cesspools, and similar devices at motor vehicle related facilities or for cesspools at multi-family dwellings or non-residential facilities →
- ✓ If you are responsible for **building inspections** at new motor vehicle related facilities or multi-family dwellings or non-residential facilities →
- ✓ If you are responsible for establishing and enforcing **city codes and ordinances** →

For successful implementation of the new rule, you should no longer permit / authorize the construction or installation of Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Systems or Large Capacity Cesspools.

Please notify facility owners that these waste disposal systems may no longer be constructed.

IMPORTANT NOTICE