# Lac La Biche County

## Sewer (Wastewater) Servicing Guidelines

1. General

   a. Alberta Safety Code permits are required when altering any private sewage system. Permits must be obtained PRIOR to installing a new septic system or altering an existing one. Applicable permits and fees must be paid in full, as well as permission to connect to municipal services must be obtained, prior to commencing any work.

   **b. A Water and Sewer Service Completion Notification must be completed and emailed before the water and sewer service will be turned on.**

   c. Each lot must have a separate water and sewer service as per the Plumbing Code.

   d. Piping must be buried below the frost depth (2.75 metres). Where minimum depth cannot be obtained, provisions shall be made for frost protection.

   e. All septic tanks and pumping chambers must be approved to meet the CAN/CSA B-66 standard.

   f. All contractors hired by the owner to install septic tanks must be certified for the specific type of installation.

   g. All wastewater piping should meet the requirements of the Plumbing Code.

   h. All excavation work must be completed in strict accordance with all requirements of Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) legislation, Lac La Biche County policy procedures and all other applicable laws, statutes and regulations.

   i. It is the responsibility of the property owner to ensure all underground utilities have been located PRIOR to starting any excavation. Line locating can be requested by calling Utility Safety Partners (Alberta One Call) at 1-800-242-3447 or via the internet at https://utilitysafety.ca/wheres-the-line/submit-a-locate-request/.

   j. The owner is responsible to repair any settlement of excavations within 1 year of the work being performed.

   k. NEVER ENTER ANY SEPTIC TANK WITHOUT PROPER EQUIPMENT—DECOMPOSING SEPTIC TANK WASTE PRODUCES TOXIC GASES THAT CAN BE LETHAL.

2. Low Pressure Wastewater System

   a. Use of an approved 2-compartment tank, or a single tank with a separate pump vault, is required.

   b. Septic tanks should meet or exceed the minimum sizes set out in the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice.

   c. Tanks should be buried a minimum of 4 feet (1.3 metres) below grade or have rigid insulation provided on all surfaces above minimum depth.

d. Tank access risers should extend above grade to prevent the introduction of groundwater to the system.

e. Tanks must be sealed watertight.

f. In areas with a high-water table, provisions must be made to prevent the tank from floating out of the ground.

g. All connections to the tanks should be made via the hubs manufactured into the tanks. Any other connections to the tank should be sealed to a watertight status.

h. Wiring is to be connected outside the tank, in a weatherproof box.

i. **No harmful products may be introduced to a septic tank. Harmful products include, but are not limited to, solvents, fuels, storm water, anti-bacterial agents, etc.**

j. Effluent MUST enter the pump chamber, or separate pump vault, from the clear zone of the tank between the sludge and scum layers.

k. Effective screening of the effluent discharged must be achieved. This can be done with either a manufactured pump screen or an inline filter accessible from the manhole.

l. Screens or filters must not allow particles of 3 mm (1/8 inch) or larger in size to pass.

m. Submersible pumps must be high head rated for => 10 gpm effluent service, for example the Orenco model # PF100511CV or equivalent.

n. Pumps must be accessible for removal without entering the tank.

o. Pumps cannot be oversized, pump curve specifications attached.

p. Piping used to connect to the municipal system should conform to the Plumbing Code. DR11 HDPE, SDR09 Municipal Tubing and Series 160 Polyethylene are some examples of approved materials.

q. The discharge piping should be a minimum size of 1 ½ inches (3.8 cm) to connect to the municipal system.

r. **Each discharge line shall incorporate a check valve located in the access way, to allow servicing without entering the tank.**

s. Connection to municipal services shall be made using applicable compression fittings or fusing.

t. Pumps must be controlled by an approved automatic means.

u. When a pump is located higher than the municipal service, a siphon break may need to be incorporated.

v. A high-level alarm must be installed.

w. All manhole covers should be insulated.

x. Property owners are responsible for ensuring systems are protected from freezing, and that all aspects of the system are accessible for servicing.

3. Gravity Wastewater System

   a. All gravity sewage piping and fittings shall be approved by the Plumbing Code.

   b. All connections to the municipal system shall be inspected, PRIOR to backfilling by County Staff.

   c. It is highly recommended that an approved sewage backflow preventer be installed on your building drain.

**The above information is intended to assist in achieving compliance with the Plumbing Code and the Private Sewage Standard of Practice. It does not cover all aspects of all installations. A current copy of the Plumbing Code and the Private Sewage Standard of Practice should be consulted PRIOR to any work being performed.**

**Property owners are reminded that they are responsible for ALL work performed on their sites. Ensure you get references for any contractors performing work on your property.**

**It's the owner's responsibility to maintain all water and sewer equipment and piping from their installation to the property connections. This includes ground settlement, line blockage and frost protection, this includes any settlement in ditches and municipal property.**

**The municipality will not be held liable for any damages incurred on private property. The municipality will not be held liable for any damages incurred on the property in the event of a sewer backup. The municipality will not install, repair or maintain any water or sewer system on private property with the exception of the water meter.**