

Jefferson County Public Health

County Sanitarian

The Jefferson County Board of Health and the Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance that went into effect November 18th 2005. The ordinance states that an inspection of the septic system is to be conducted by the County Sanitarian when a property is transferred.

Passing criteria for the septic system inspection at time of transfer:

- 1) The septic tank is in sound condition and working properly.
(May need pumping, risers, tees or effluent filter)
- 2) Secondary treatment system is in good working order and functioning properly.
(All systems must have a secondary treatment system)
- 3) BOD test of discharge shall be 25 mg/l or less.
- 4) Passing water test for private wells.
- 5) The plugging of abandoned wells.
- 6) There is a \$100 fee for the inspection. If the system fails, the fee will cover the construction permit necessary to replace or repair the system. There may be other fees associated with the inspection: pumping the septic tank, BOD test, filter, etc.
- 7) The person having the inspection done is responsible for having the septic tank inspection ports accessible and easy to open. There are 3 inspection ports on a septic tank: the inlet, outlet and center or pumping cover.
- 8) There are no "grandfathered" private septic systems in Iowa.
- 9) There are low interest loans available to help upgrade failed septic systems.

If you have any questions please call Dan Miller, Jefferson County Sanitarian.