

Septic System Pumping Record
Rockport, MA

1. System Location: _____
Address

2. System Owner: _____
Name Phone

Owner's Address (if different from location)

3. Date of Pumping: ____/____/____
month day year

4. Septic Hauling Company Name and Contact Info:

5. Components and Volumes Pumped:

Cesspool(s) Septic Tank Tight Tank Grease Trap Pump Chamber Other: _____

Gallons Gallons Gallons Gallons Gallons Gallons

6. Condition of Covers (and Safety Grates, if required):

(Note: With some exceptions, most "at-grade" covers, if they are light-weight (<90lbs), are required to have a safety grate installed immediately per Rockport Board of Health regulation. Licensed septic haulers are required to inform customers of this requirement at the time of pump out.)

Examples for completing this section:

- No covers at-grade. Tank outlet cover is concrete and below-grade (buried 9"). Safety grate not required. *(Complies with regulation.)*
- Cover over septic tank outlet is light-weight and at-grade. Safety grate installed today (or safety grate already in place). *(Complies with reg.)*
- Cover over pump chamber is light-weight and at-grade. No safety grate in place. Owner has been informed of required safety grate.
- Cover over treatment tank is light-weight and at-grade, however tank contains solid foam cubes (supports weight of a person), therefore no safety grate required. *(Complies with regulation.)*
- Cover over plastic / poly tank is light-weight and at-grade, however entire cover turns and threads into place, therefore no safety grate required. *(Complies with regulation.)*

7. Effluent Filter(s) Present: Yes No If yes, cleaned? Yes No
(Note: Effluent filters should be cleaned AFTER pumping septic tank, not before.)

8. Condition of System: _____

9. System Pumped By: _____
Hauler / Driver's Name Company Name

10. Location where contents disposed: _____

10. Signature of Hauler/Driver: _____
Date

11. Signature of Receiving Facility: _____
Date

Below are sections of the Rockport Board of Health septic system regulations pertaining to Covers at Grade, adopted October 2012.

3. Definitions

Light weight covers – less than 90 lbs

Medium duty covers – 90 lbs minimum weight and is secure from unauthorized access.

7. Septage Hauling Reports

7.1. Septage haulers must submit to the Rockport Board of Health a “System Pumping Record” using a form that meets the requirements of Title 5 and local Board of Health regulations for each pump-out within 14 days of pumping date.

8. Covers at Grade

8.1. In order to decrease the risk of a person or animal falling into a septic tank (or similarly dangerous septic component, e.g. pump chamber, holding tank, cesspool, treatment tank, leach pit, dry well) the following regulation is enacted. Light-weight covers that require bolts or screws (or similar) to secure the cover from unauthorized access, are not allowed. The rationale for this regulation is that people do not reliably replace the bolts/screws.

8.2. Covers at grade shall be cast iron, minimum "medium duty", whether bolts are present or not. (Bolts are not required.) Inside horizontal lip shall be smaller than the cover by a minimum of 1.5” diameter (3/4” radius). Vertical lip height shall be a minimum of 50% greater than the thickness of the outside edge of the cover.

8.3. Exceptions for *continued or future use* of light-weight, bolted covers can be made if the tank is filled with sand, stone, or other filter media that would support 250 lbs.

8.4. Exceptions for *continued use* of light-weight, bolted covers can be made if a safety grate is installed. However, light-weight, bolted covers cannot be *newly installed*, even with the use of safety grates, unless 8.3 is met above.

8.5. Effective immediately, all non-conforming covers shall be retrofitted with a safety grate. Licensed septic haulers are required to inform customers of this requirement at the time of pump out.

8.6. At the time of a Title 5 septic system inspection, the inspector shall note the status of all covers to grade on a form provide by the Board of Health, and all non-conforming covers shall be retrofitted with a medium-duty cover that is affixed to the riser in a secure manner.

8.7. Light-weight covers that are secure *without* the use of bolts are allowed. For example, plastic covers in which the entire cover turns and screws into the tank or riser (e.g. certain poly tanks) are allowed.

8.8. Below-grade access covers shall be pre-cast concrete and have minimum depth of 9" soil coverage.



BOARD OF HEALTH

**34 Broadway
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TO: Septic Haulers/Pumpers

RE: NEW REGULATIONS, NEW FORM, & Permit Renewal

DATE: February 7, 2013

FROM: Leslie Whelan, Health Agent

The Rockport Board of Health recently revised its septic system regulations (enclosed). This letter is meant to help you understand the new requirements, specifically: covers at-grade during Title 5 inspections.

Enclosed is a revised Pumping Record form to correspond to our new septic regulations. In accordance with the regulations, please use this new form, and inform your customers whenever a safety grate is required.

Major points for Septic Haulers to understand about the regulation:

- a. The intention is to keep people (especially children) from falling into septic tanks, cesspools, etc, thereby saving lives.
- b. Light-weight covers (often made of plastic and require bolts to be secure from unauthorized access) are only safe if the bolts are properly attached. Bolts are not always replaced or securely attached to the riser; therefore, at-grade covers that are light weight might be easily removed by a child who could then fall into the tank.
- c. Safety grates are required *immediately* in certain circumstances. In Rockport (and Hamilton) safety grates are required whenever a light weight (usually plastic) cover is at grade over a septic tank, pump chamber, cesspool, leach pit, and some treatment tanks. (There are certain exceptions. Please see 8.3 and 8.7 of the regulation for exceptions, e.g. covers that twist into place like on some poly tanks, and treatment tanks with a firm/supportive media do not require safety grates).
- d. Septic Haulers are required to inform their customers, at the time of a pump out, when they have a non-conforming cover at-grade that a safety grate is immediately required.

We encourage you to make safety grates available to your customers. We are not endorsing any particular product or company, however we know of a local source for safety grates: they are available from Clearwater Industries in Ipswich (978-356-0079) for approximately \$20 each. We hope this is helpful.

OVER

Licenses for the pumping and hauling of septage in the Town of Rockport are due for renewal on April 1. Please complete the enclosed application and forward with fee of **\$75.00 per truck** to the Board of Health, payable to the Town of Rockport.

Please call me at 978-546-3701 if you have any questions. ***The regulation is much easier to understand after I explain it.*** Best time to reach me is Monday and Thursday 9-10 AM (978-546-3701).