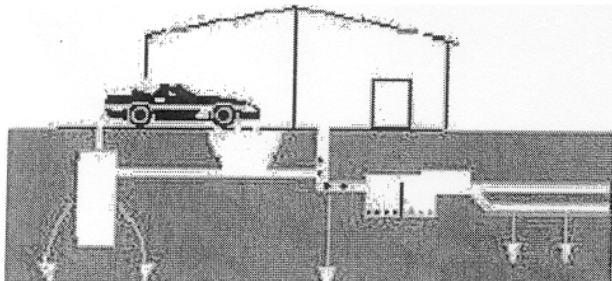




EPA Bans Two Types of Waste Disposal Systems

NOTICE TO LOCAL OFFICIALS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned the construction and permitting of **NEW Large Capacity Cesspools** and **NEW Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells** across the United States, including Indian Country. These two waste disposal systems have a large potential to contaminate underground sources of drinking water. This new rule will prevent contamination and protect public health by eliminating disposal of wastes through these systems. We need your assistance to implement this regulatory revision by making modifications to local codes and ordinances, discontinuing the permitting of these systems, and providing notification to the affected facility owners to discontinue the construction of these systems.



New Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells Banned

Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells are shallow waste water disposal systems 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, automotive 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.

New Systems BANNED as of April 5, 2000, and Existing Systems to be CLOSED by April 2005:

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Motor vehicle wells were effectively banned in Oregon in 1984 under existing rules. Permanent closure is required when these wells are found. DEQ requires owners/operators to file a pre-closure form 30 days before taking action.

NEW Large Capacity Cesspools Banned Nationwide

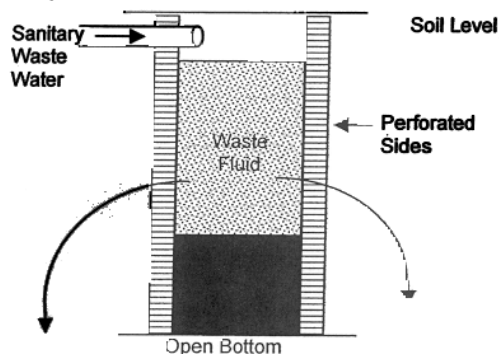
A **Cesspool** is a drywell that receives untreated sanitary waste containing human excreta, which sometimes has an open bottom and/or perforated sides, and is completed above the water table so that its bottom and sides are typically dry except when receiving fluids.

EPA defines **large capacity** 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.

As of April 5, 2000, no new permits for large capacity cesspools are allowed.



Existing Large Capacity Cesspools must be closed by April 5, 2005.

How the Ban Affects Local Officials

No new Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Systems or Large Capacity Cesspools are to be authorized or permitted. Facility owners must be notified that these waste disposal systems may no longer be constructed.

Regulatory Information Sources

EPA 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>

Oregon DEQ UIC Program
<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/groundwa/uichome.htm>