

## WASTEWATER PUMPING TRUCKS

The regulations covering the cleaning of septic tanks are found in Napa County Code Title 5, Chapter 5.20, Sections 5.20.010 to 5.20.110. Pumper trucks are permitted to pump only wastewater from domestic septic and sump tanks, grease from grease interceptors and grease traps, and agricultural wastes from dairies and wineries. Other industrial wastes may be classified as hazardous wastes and must be hauled by a licensed hazardous waste hauler. If a company is hauling hazardous material without the appropriate State permits, EPA identification number and proper hazardous waste manifests, they should be referred to the Hazardous Material's Division for follow up. If a company is unsure about the status of a waste material, they are required to have a chemical analysis of the contents performed prior to pumping.

Prior to issuance or re-issuance of an annual operating permit, a complete inspection of the vehicle and equipment must be performed. Use the "Septic Tank Pumper Inspection Form" for each truck's inspection. In most cases, the vehicle is brought to this Department for the inspection. Companies with several vehicles may arrange an onsite inspection at their facility.

Each company is required to post a minimum five thousand dollar (\$5000.00) security with Napa County. The most common form is a bond, however other forms as per Napa County Code Section 5.20.090 are acceptable. Upon receipt of the company's security, make arrangements for these documents to be delivered to County Counsel for their review and approval. If any changes to the security are needed, inform the applicant. Once the required changes have been made, resubmit the security to County Counsel. Upon approval, Counsel will stamp as "Approved to form" or will initial and date. If the security is in the form of a bond, somewhere on the bond it should state, "This bond is subject to the laws and jurisdictions of the State of California". Things to keep in mind when accepting a security:

- Annual operating permits are valid for one (1) year. Some forms of security may have an expiration date. If the security expires before the permit, advise the applicant that their operating permit will be suspended until such time as a Certificate of Continuation of the existing security, or a new form of security, is submitted and approved by this Department and County Counsel.
- An institution issuing the security has the right to send the County of Napa a notice of cancellation of the security. Upon receipt of such a notice, we must notify the pumper company that the operating permit(s) for their pumper truck(s) will be suspended until such time as a new form of security is submitted and approved by this Department and County Counsel.

Items that should be on file with this Department:

- A current picture of each permitted truck.
- A copy of the Weights and Measures Department certification, which certifies the total gallon capacity of the truck.
- The vehicle license number should be on all items associated with a specific truck.
- A five thousand dollar (\$5000.00) security.

Additional information:

- Only the specific licensed trucks permitted by this department can operate in Napa County.
- Only permitted companies can provide chemical toilets. Property owners can provide chemical toilets only on their own property and they must be routinely serviced by a permitted septic pumping company.
- Emergency telephone numbers and company/property owner name must be identified in 4" letters on two sides of the toilets.
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### **REQUIREMENT AND PROCEDURES**

Any safe and sanitary method of cleaning the hose and pump is acceptable. When the truck routinely services chemical toilets, they usually have an ample supply of the disinfecting solution and use it to clean their equipment and for disinfection of spills. Emergency telephone numbers which should be available on the truck are: 911, Highway Patrol, Environmental Health Department, Fish and Game, etc. The disposal sites should be occasionally contacted to insure that the trucks are truly using that site. The route logs which are usually available on the trucks are adequate for our concerns. The actual truck drivers should be questioned about emergency procedures. They should mention containing and stopping the spill (building dikes to halt movement, securing the outlet, etc.). They should know to call the appropriate emergency phone numbers. Possible mitigation procedures should be discussed (pumping up the spill and disinfecting the area, etc.).

A copy of the inspection report should either be given to the driver or sent to the facility. The current fee schedules should be examined to determine the appropriate "per truck" annual fee for the permit.