Preparing Subsurface Wastewater and Plumbing Permit Applications for Submittal



Permits...

... are required for

- · the installation of plumbing into a building; and
- the installation of a subsurface waste water disposal system or components

...are valid for work that is begun within 24 months after the permit is issued.

"It shall be unlawful for a person, firm, or corporation to make an installation, alteration, repair, replacement, or remodel a plumbing system... or to cause the same to be done without first obtaining a separate plumbing permit for each separate building or structure." Uniform Plumbing Code, 2015—104.1

"Work must not be started until the LPI has issued a disposal system permit for the work. Installing a new, expanded, or replacement subsurface wastewater disposal system, or any individual components, requires a permit..."

State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules – Section 3, A-1



Per both the *Uniform Plumbing Code* and the *State of Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules*, **permits are required for**

- the installation of plumbing into a building; and
- the installation of a subsurface wastewater disposal system or components

Permits are valid for work that has commenced within two years of the date of issuance.

Exceptions...

- All pipes, equipment or material used exclusively for manufacturing or industrial processes;
- The installation or alteration of automatic sprinkler systems used for fire protection and standpipes connected to automatic sprinkler systems or overhead;
- · Building drains outside the foundation wall or structure;
- The replacement of fixtures with similar fixtures at the same location without any alteration of pipes;
- · The sealing of leaks within an existing line.



Exceptions to the permit requirement:

- All pipes, equipment or material used exclusively for manufacturing or industrial processes;
- The installation or alteration of automatic sprinkler systems used for fire protection and standpipes connected to automatic sprinkler systems or overhead;
- Building drains outside the foundation wall or structure;
- The replacement of fixtures with similar fixtures at the same location without any alteration of pipes;
- The sealing of leaks within an existing line.

Municipal Office Staff...

Review permits to make sure they are ready for submittal:

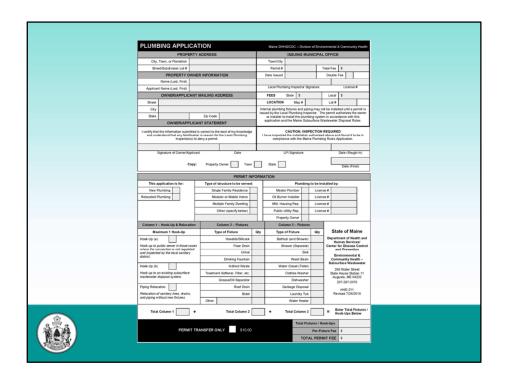
- Complete
- Accurate
- · Legible



Municipal Office Staff

Ensure permits are complete, accurate, and legible. Remember: these are public documents intended, in part, to serve as an accurate record of fees and property improvements.

Plumbing and SSWW permits should also be viewed as legal documents – each is a covenant between the property owner and the Town – so it is important that, aside from being a true representation of work being done, they are **signed by both the applicant** (the property owner or an authorized agent) **and the LPI** (acting as an agent for the municipality).



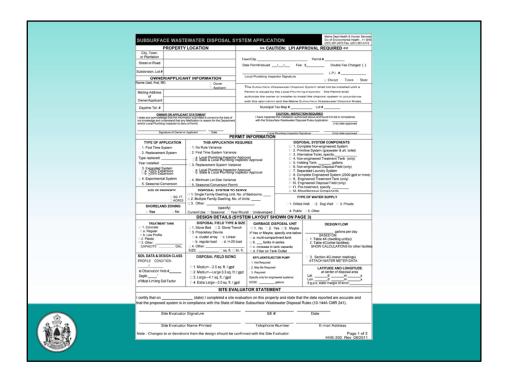
The HHE-211 – Internal Plumbing Permit.

At issuance, the permit should be signed by both the property owner (or an authorized representative) and the Town's LPI.

Line items in columns 1, 2, and 3 should be tallied together. The permit's value is determined by multiplying total quantity of all three columns (combined) by \$10.00. There is a minimum of \$40.00 for an internal plumbing permit.

Permit transfers occur when responsibility for the permit is transferred – when either a new plumber or the property owner takes over the project. These should be stand-alone permits. Additional fixtures or hook-ups should not be identified on a Transfer. The fee for a permit transfer is \$10.00. This is the only instance where the total reportable fee for a permit will be less than the \$40.00 minimum.

The HHE-211 was recently updated. If your office is still issuing permits on outdated forms, please discontinue use of the older materials.



The HHE-200 - Subsurface Wastewater ("external plumbing") Permit.

At issuance, the permit should be signed by both the property owner (or an authorized representative) and the Town's LPI.

The reportable fee for a SSWW permit is determined by the items selected under **Disposal System Components**, occasionally combined with additional application requirements (variances, etc.). The value of each disposal system component can be found in the **standard fee schedule**.



Subsurface Wastewater (External) Permit Fees Disposal System Components Complete Non-Engineered System \$250.00 \$62.50 \$15.00 2. Primitive / Limited System (graywater & alt toilet) \$100.00 \$25.00 \$15.00 3. Alternative Toilet \$50.00 \$12.50 Non-Engineered Treatment Tank \$25.00 \$15.00 5. Holding Tank \$100.00 6. Non-Engineered Disposal Field \$150.00 \$37.50 7. Separated Laundry System \$15.00 8. Complete Engineered System \$200.00 \$50.00 Engineered Treatment Tank (only) Engineered Disposal Field (only) \$80.00 \$20.00 \$150.00 \$37.50 11. Pre-Treatment 12. Miscellaneous Components \$30.00 \$7.50 First-Time System Variances \$20.00 \$5.00 * Replacement System Variances \$20.00 Seasonal Conversion Permit \$50.00 \$12.50

Fee schedule – subsurface (external) wastewater permit fees

Internal Plumbing Permits Minimum fee, includes up to 4 fixtures/hook-ups \$40.00 \$10.00 Individual fixtures, each, over 4 \$10.00 \$2.50 Mobile or Modular Home – factory components \$40.00 \$10.00 Hook up to public sewer \$10.00 \$2.50 Hook up to existing subsurface system \$10.00 \$2.50 Piping relocation with no new fixtures \$10.00 \$2.50 Permit transfer \$10.00 \$2.50	Internal Plumbing Permits	Plumbing (Internal) l	Permit Fees		
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		Hook up to existing subsurface system	\$10.00	\$2.50	
Permit transfer \$10.00 \$2.50	Permit transfer \$10.00 \$2.50	Piping relocation with no new fixtures	\$10.00	\$2.50	
		Permit transfer	\$10.00	\$2.50	

Fee schedule – internal plumbing permit fees

Common Blind Spots on Internal Plumbing Permits

- · Minimum Fee
- · Mobile or Modular Homes
- Permit Transfers



Common Blind Spots (Internal plumbing permits)

- The **minimum fee** for an internal plumbing permit is \$40.00. This minimum fee covers fixtures and hook-ups/piping relocations totaling 4 or fewer.
- For **modular or mobile homes**, the minimum fee applies as long as no additional fixtures are being installed (all fixtures are factory originals). These should be considered a hook-up only.
- Permit transfers should be stand-alone actions on their own applications.

Common Blind Spots on SSWW Disposal System Permits

- Variances
- · DEP Water Quality Surcharge
- Updated Permits



Common Blind Spots (SSWW permits)

- Variances: The State's 25% share of the \$20.00 variance fee only applies to first time systems requiring State approval. For all other variances, the Town keeps the entire \$20.00 variance fee.
- The DEP's water quality surcharge is a \$15.00 fee over and above the fee charged for an external (subsurface wastewater) permit. It should be applied to all *non-engineered* systems (line items 1, 2, 5, and 7 on the SSWW permit application). The DEP surcharge is not applicable to any of the other disposal system components. The entire amount of the surcharge goes to DEP it is not figured into the State's 25% share of permit fees.
- In the event an **updated permit** is submitted with no additional fee, please remember to note "revised" clearly on the permit.

Common Blind Spots

- · Fees Applied Per Local Ordinance or Rule
- Waived Fees
- Corrections
- · Permit Numbers
- · Complete Copies (all pages)
- Frequency
- · Extenuating Circumstances



Common Blind Spots (general)

- Municipalities are not required to report double fees or additional fees applied per local rule or ordinance as part of the State's share. The State asks only that standard fees be reported. Revenues over and above the State's 25% share of standard fees may be kept by the municipality.
- While municipalities do have the latitude to waive their portion of permit fees, the State is still due 25% of the value of the permit as determined by the standard fee schedule.
- When correcting permits, please do not cross-out, scribble-out, or over-write notations. Instead, use a white correction product to make these adjustments.
- Each permit should bear a unique permit number. When two or more permits have the same number, they are recorded as presented and will show up on your receipt as such. When a permit arrives in our office with no evident permit number, the permit date is substituted (i.e., 02192016) for recording purposes and will appear as such on your receipt..
- Submittals should include complete copies (all pages) of each permit. Permits that arrive in our office as cover pages only may be rejected as 'incomplete' or 'invalid'.
- Submit your permits to us on a monthly schedule or at least quarterly. This will better ensure accuracy on both ends, and make it easier for us to identify issues that might arise from our reconciliation of permits and fees.
- We understand that there will occasionally be extenuating circumstances that result in fees tabulated by means other than the approved fee schedule. When these circumstances do arise, please be sure to enclose explanatory information with the corresponding permit(s). Should you need guidance on permits, contact Brent Lawson (State Plumbing Inspector).

Check your work

Review all materials to ensure...

- · All pages of permits are included;
- Each permit bears a permit number;
- · Each permit notes the date of issuance;
- Each permit has been signed by both the property owner (or an authorized representative acting as the applicant) and the issuing LPI;
- · Permits are legible;
- Information on the permit accurately reflects the work being done.



Check Your Work

We recommend putting a **QC process** in place to double-check permits before they are submitted to our office. This will help ensure that permits accurately reflect work being done to internal plumbing or external wastewater systems, and will go a long way toward eliminating discrepancies in fees.

Review all materials to ensure...

- · All pages of permits are included
- Each permit bears a permit number
- Each permit notes the date of issuance
- Each permit has been **signed** by both the property owner (or an authorized representative acting as the applicant) *and* the issuing LPI
- · Permits are legible
- Information on the permit accurately reflects the work being done

Subsurface Wastewater Program staff are available to help!

Check your work

Supporting documentation is welcome, but not required.

Send permits and fees in the same envelope.

All payments should originate from the sending Municipal Office.

Send your remittance and copies of all applicable permits to:

Maine DHHS/CDC

Division of Environmental and Community Health

286 Water Street, 3rd Floor

11 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0011



Check Your Work (continued)

Some municipalities include a summary of their submission, listing permits and fees. If you do opt to include a summary with your submittal, please be sure that all permits included in the submittal are listed. If a permit is noted on a summary but is not included with the actual permits, it will not be recorded. We cannot record fees for permits we do not have in hand, so the value of the permit will not be factored into the total amount expected.

Certificates of approval are no longer required.

All plumbing and subsurface wastewater permit submittals received in our office must be accompanied by appropriate payment of the State's 25% share of fees collected. Checks received without corresponding permits, or permits received without accompanying payment (if payment is due), will be returned to the originating municipal office immediately.

All payments should originate from the sending Municipal Office. Do not forward personal checks from property owners or applicants working on their behalf.

Checks for permit fees and copies of corresponding permits should be mailed to:

Maine DHHS/CDC, Division of Environmental and Community Health 286 Water Street, 3rd Floor 11 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0011

(Checks should be made **payable to** *Treasurer*, *State of Maine*)

Do not send to the attention of any particular individual.



Electronic Submittal

Municipalities have the option of submitting copies of permits electronically.

Scanned copies of permits can be emailed to our office, with remittance to follow (sent via USPS). Municipalities that wish to take advantage of this option should contact our office to establish a procedure that meets the Town or City's needs as well as our requirements. We will not accept emailed permits without a prior understanding.

What we do... SSWW Permits... Disposal System Requirements Application Requirements Internal Plumbing Permits... Fixtures Hook-ups and Relocations

What We Do - Process Explanation

When permits come into our office we review each document, checking for signatures, accuracy, and legibility. Then we perform a reconciliation of permits and fees, based on the *face value* of each permit per the standard fee schedule. These are *reportable* fees. As mentioned earlier, we do not consider additional fees applied per local rule or ordinance; these are *non*-reportable fees.

On **SSWW permits**, we look at application requirements (variances, etc.) and disposal system components; we generally do not dig much deeper into the technical details. So, if an LPI indicates a holding tank on the permit, we go on the assumption that the inspector has accurately represented the work being permitted. If 'Holding Tank' is the identified disposal system component on a permit, we will record the permit at \$100.00, the standard minimum fee for that component.

On **internal plumbing permits**, we check to ensure all fixtures and hook-ups (or piping relocations) have been tabulated, and that the reported fee represents the total factored at \$10.00 each. If ten fixtures and one hook-up are noted on a permit, we will record the value of the permit as \$110.00: $10 + 1 = 11 \times 10 .

Permit(s) Received from Oldfield for September 2018 Internal External State Share 7574 \$250.00 \$ \$62.50 \$25.00 \$ \$525.00 \$ \$525.00 \$ \$525.00 \$ \$62.50 \$ \$7575 \$100.00 \$ \$ \$62.50 \$ \$62.50 \$ \$62.50 \$ \$62.50 \$ \$62.50 \$ \$ \$62.50 \$
7574 \$250.00
7575 \$100.00
7588 \$40.00 7589 \$40.00 7590 \$50.00 7590 \$50.00 After reviewing the permits accompanying check # 291529, we find that the amount remitted (\$337.50) was insufficient for the accompanying permits. By our accounting, the State's share for all permits submitted should have totaled \$342.50, ad difference of \$5.00. This is an FYI only – we are not expecting additional payment to cover the difference. • Permit # 7590 itemizes 8 fedures plus 1 hook-up for a total of 9. At \$10.00 per line item, the total for this permit should be \$90.00. The fee recorded on the permit is \$70.00.
7589 \$40.00 7590 \$90.00 After reviewing the permits accompanying check # 291528, we find that the amount remitted (\$337.50) was insufficient for the accompanying permits. By our accounting, the State's share for all permits submitted should have totaled \$342.50, ad difference of \$5.00. This is an FYI only – we are not expecting additional payment to cover the difference. • Permit # 7590 temizes 8 factures plus 1 hook-up for a total of 9. At \$10.00 per line item, the total for this permit should be \$90.00. The fee recorded on the permit is \$70.00.
was insufficient for the accompanying permits. By our accounting, the State's share for all permits 7591 \$120.00 submitted should have totaled \$34.25 0, addifference of \$5.00. This is an FYI only – we are not expecting additional payment to cover the difference. 7593 \$40.00 **Permit # 7590 temizes 8 features plus 1 hook-up for a total of 9. At \$10.00 per line item, the total for this permit should be \$90.00. The fee recorded on the permit is \$70.00.
7591 \$120.00 submitted should have totaled \$342.50, a difference of \$5.00. This is an FYI only – we are not expecting additional payment to cover the difference.
7592 \$80.00 7593 \$40.00 • Permit # 7590 femizes 8 fectures plus 1 hook-up for a total of 9. At \$10.00 per line item, the total for this permit should be \$90.00. The fee recorded on the permit is \$70.00.
7594 \$250.00 this permit should be \$90.00. The fee recorded on the permit is \$70.00.
7594 \$250.00 7595 \$360.00
7595 \$360.00 A message to all Towns:
Totals \$1,370.00 The 2018 revised Internal Plumbling Permit application (HHE-211) is now available for use. A blank application form is attached to this email; electronically fillable versions can be downloaded from the Subsurface Wastevarter website at https://www.maine.gov/dbhs/meedc/environmental-bealth/plumb/borms.htm . Drinking Water Program • www.mcdvp.com • Phone (207) 28 Please discontinue use of older versions of the form immediately. If you have any questions on accessing or using the new HHE-211, please don't hesitate to contact our office. Thank you.

Receipts

It is our practice to send receipts in electronic format to municipalities that provide valid email addresses; unfortunately, we do not have the resources to provide paper receipts for all Towns on an ongoing basis. If you haven't been receiving receipts for permit fees and you would like to, please contact us with an active email address to which receipts may be sent.

Receipts reflect the correct reportable fees for each permit as determined during our reconciliation.

If there is a discrepancy, the accompanying email will identify the amount of the discrepancy, and, if possible, provide notes identifying the source(s) of the discrepancy. We prefer to go on the assumption that mistakes happen – we are all human – and the comments included with receipts are merely intended as advisories.

If the Town send us more money than we feel is appropriate, given our review and findings, a credit for the difference is awarded. Credits may be applied toward future submittals, but for permit fees only; we do not issue credits for overpayments toward the DEP water quality surcharge.

When the amount of an overpayment is greater than \$50.00, the program may elect to return all materials to the Town and request corrected payment.

If the Town's remittance is less than we feel is appropriate, we will ask for additional funds to balance the account. In these instances, the funds may be included with the Town's next submittal of permits and fees.

When the amount of an underpayment is greater than \$100.00, the program may elect to return all materials to the Town and request corrected payment.

Questions? Comments? Need assistance?

For any questions regarding plumbing/SSWW permit fees, please contact our office:

- Email: subsurface.wastewater@maine.gov
- Phone: (207) 287-2070

Mail correspondence should be addressed to:

Maine DHHS/CDC Subsurface Wastewater 286 Water Street, 3rd Floor 11 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0011



Contact us:

Email: subsurface.wastewater@maine.gov

Phone: (207) 287-2070

Mail correspondence should be addressed to:

Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Maine DHHS/CDC – Div. of Environmental and Community Health Subsurface Wastewater 286 Water Street, 3rd Floor 11 State House Station