

# INFORMATION SHEET

## CLASS 1 SEWAGE SYSTEMS

Class 1 sewage systems can only be used for the disposal of human body waste. These systems must not receive any greywater, or any other wastewater derived from plumbing fixtures such as kitchen sinks, bathtubs, washing machines, or laundry tubs. A Class 2 sewage system is often used in conjunction with a Class 1 system.

Class 1 sewage systems do not require a building permit. Typically, this system is used in remote areas, such as seasonal cottages, parks, or for temporary purposes, such as construction sites.

### **Division B, Article 8.3.2.1. of the OBC outlines Construction Requirements**

- (1) A privy as described in Subsections 8.3.3. to 8.3.5. shall be enclosed with a superstructure that,
  - (a) is constructed of strong durable weatherproof materials,
  - (b) has a solid floor supported by a sill constructed of treated timber, masonry or other material of at least equal strength and durability,
  - (c) is easily sanitized,
  - (d) unless it is equipped solely as a urinal, is equipped with one or more seats each having a cover and being supported by an enclosed bench or riser that is lined with an impervious material on all interior vertical surfaces,
  - (e) is equipped with a self-closing door,
  - (f) has one or more openings for purposes of ventilation, all of which are screened,
  - (g) has a ventilation duct that is screened at the top end and that extends from the underside of the bench or riser to a point above the roof of the superstructure, and
  - (h) shall not have any openings for the reception of human body waste, other than urinals and those in constructed in accordance with Clause (1)(d).

**An Earth Pit Privy is only suitable where there is a sufficient thickness of soil above either bedrock or the high groundwater table.**

### **Article 8.3.3.1. of Division B of the OBC outlines Construction Requirements for an Earth Pit Privy**

- (1) An earth pit privy shall be constructed in the following manner:
  - (a) the bottom of the pit shall be at least 900 mm above the high ground water table,
  - (b) the sides of the pit shall be reinforced so as to prevent collapse of them,
  - (c) the pit shall be surrounded on all sides and on its bottom by not less than 600 mm of soil or leaching bed fill, and
  - (d) the soil or leaching bed fill around the base of the sides of the superstructure of the earth pit privy shall be raised or mounded to a height of at least 150 mm above ground level.

**A Vault Privy is suitable where there is not adequate soil available to dig an earth pit privy.**

**Article 8.3.4.1. of Division B of the OBC outlines Construction Requirements for a Vault Privy**

- (1) A privy-vault or a pail privy shall be constructed in the following manner:
  - (a) the container or structure that is to be used for the holding or storage of sanitary sewage shall be watertight and made of a material that can be easily cleaned,
  - (b) the soil or leaching bed fill around the base of the sides of the superstructure shall be raised or mounded to a height of at least 150 mm above ground level, and
  - (c) the surface of the ground in the area of the privy-vault or pail privy shall be graded so that surface drainage will be diverted away from the privy.

**A Portable Privy combines into one unit the receptacle for human body waste and the superstructure. Therefore, it is important for this combined unit to have structural rigidity.**

**Article 8.3.5.1. of Division B of the OBC outlines Construction Requirements for a Portable Privy**

- (1) A portable privy shall be constructed in the following manner:
  - (a) the portable privy shall have a watertight receptacle that shall be suitable for the holding and storage of any sanitary sewage deposited in it,
  - (b) the receptacle for the holding and storage of sewage shall be designed and constructed in such a manner as to allow it to be easily emptied and cleaned, and
  - (c) the portable privy shall be constructed of such material and in such a manner that it can withstand the stresses to which it will be subjected during its transportation to and from sites where it is to be used and during loading and unloading from vehicles used for the transportation of the portable privy to and from sites where it is to be used.

**Earth Pit Privy**

