

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROPER SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE, HAULING AND DISPOSAL

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**Albuquerque Bernalillo County
Water Utility Authority**
*Information on how to get a permit
or dispose of septic waste:*
(505) 873-7032 • arlovato@abcwua.org

Bernalillo County Office of Environmental Health
(505) 314-0310 • eh@bernco.gov

**New Mexico Environment Department
Liquid Waste Program**
1-800-219-6157

Albuquerque Office – (505) 222-9500
Rio Rancho Office – (505) 771-5980
Santa Fe Office – (505) 827-1840

**National Association of
Wastewater Transporters (NAWT)**
1-800-236-NAWT or 1-800-236-6298
info@nawt.org

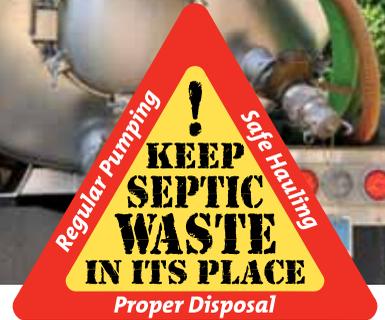
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SEPTIC WASTE HAULING AND DISPOSAL IN CENTRAL NEW MEXICO



Within the past few years, the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission has fined septic waste haulers up to \$50,000 for improper disposal of septage.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

If you pump out and dispose of septage – the waste product from septic systems – there are a few important things to keep in mind. Proper septic waste hauling and disposal is important to protect public health, and ground and surface water.

Household septic tanks and cesspools constitute the single largest source of ground water contamination in the state, according to the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission.



YOU MUST HAVE A WASTEWATER DISCHARGE PERMIT

ANYONE hauling septic waste to the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's (ABCWUA) Southside Reclamation Plant must have a wastewater discharge permit. To obtain a permit, contact the ABCWUA Industrial Waste Engineer. Also, you should be certified by the National Association of Wastewater Transporters, Inc. (NAWT) or an equivalent agency. You should follow all applicable rules and regulations of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the New Mexico Environment Department, and if you operate in Bernalillo County, the Bernalillo County Office of Environmental Health. Contact information for all of these organizations is on the back of this card.

DISPOSE OF SEPTIC WASTE AT AN APPROVED FACILITY

Some municipal wastewater treatment plants, such as the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority's Southside Water Reclamation Plant at 4201 Second Street in Albuquerque, are authorized to accept septic waste. There are also other approved disposal sites. ***Disposal of any septic waste at any unauthorized site is illegal, and can result in civil fines and possible criminal penalties.***

MAINTAIN YOUR EQUIPMENT IN PROPER WORKING ORDER

Your vacuum truck(s) should be maintained in proper working order, and in a manner that prevents leakage or spills while in operation or being stored. Hoses should be stored in an orderly fashion and with clean exteriors. Also, it's a good idea to keep your hauling vehicle equipped with a kit to control, remove and disinfect up to a 25-gallon spill.

TAKE CARE OF SPILLS IMMEDIATELY

If there is a spill, it's your job to contain it, minimize the environmental impact and begin the cleanup. Immediately contact your local fire department, the New Mexico Environment Department, and, if the spill is in Bernalillo County, the Bernalillo County Office of Environmental Health.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY

Wear waterproof gloves, waterproof boots and a smock when handling hoses and pumping. Cloth or leather easily absorbs liquid and can be a breeding ground for pathogens and diseases.

PROTECT YOUR CUSTOMER'S PROPERTY

Homeowners and commercial customers may have huge investments in their landscaping. Keep septic waste in the hose or in the tank and off their property. Use a separate tailpiece to suck out the tank to keep the overall pump-out and cleanup easier and neater. Make sure the hose is completely empty before uncoupling and take extra care when uncoupling from the tank valve.

LEAVE A DETAILED MANIFEST WITH YOUR BILL

Always remember to pump out both sides of the septic tank. Whether you present your bill in person or leave it for your customer, let them know, along with your invoice:

1. How much septic waste was pumped out of their system;
2. Where and when it is being disposed of; and
3. When you recommend follow-up maintenance.

Make sure that the information you leave your customers, as well as the manifest you present when disposing of septic waste, is legible with all information for each load detailed and all sections completed.

If you notice a customer's septic system is in danger of failing, you should alert the property owner. You should also notify the New Mexico Department of Health and/or Bernalillo County Office of Environmental Health.

EDUCATE YOUR CUSTOMERS ON PROPER SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Many homeowners may not be aware of how their septic system works or how to properly maintain it. While supplies last, you can contact the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District to request free handouts for septic system owners. Many septic waste haulers also put in place a "reminder" system to let their customers know when it is time to have their septic system looked at and their septic tank pumped out again.