

1 **Septic Health Regulation**

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3 **Authority:**

4 **Health Officers** NH RSA 147:10 grants municipal health officers, with the approval of the **Board of**
5 **Selectmen** (NH RSA 147:1), authority to adopt regulations that will ensure that wastewater
6 disposal systems shall not be a nuisance or injurious to public health.

7 **General Purpose and Intent**

8 Watershed drainage ultimately affects our groundwater, streams, and lakes. Any leaking or failing
9 septic system, regardless of its proximity to water bodies, can negatively impact water quality. This
10 issue requires full community participation. All septic systems must be pumped and inspected at
11 least every three (3) years.

12 The objective of this regulation is to:

13 1) Protect the quality of the major public water supplies (both public and private) for the Town of
14 New London

15 2) Protect the quality of ground water and surface waters in our streams and in the lakes and ponds
16 in the Town of New London

17 3) Protect public health through prevention of human contact with sewage and related pathogens

18 4) Prevent increased nitrogen and phosphorus accumulations and related pathogens from entering
19 the lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and aquifer recharge areas

20 5) Provide a proactive approach towards septic systems posing higher risk and significance of
21 failure within the Town of New London

22 **Reference and Definitions**

23 All terms used herein shall have the same definitions as found in State regulations and references
24 based on Chapter Env-Wq 1000 “Subdivisions; Individual Sewage Disposal Systems” with Statutory
25 Authority RSA 485-A:6, latest effective date Oct. 1, 2016, or most recent.

26 **Applicability**

27 These regulations apply to all Individual Sewage Disposal Systems located wholly or partially within
28 the Town of New London.

29 **Septic Tank Pumping and General Inspection**

30 All developed properties with Individual Sewage Disposal Systems in the Town of New London shall
31 be pumped a minimum of once every three (3) years. A copy of the receipt for pumping and the
32 general inspection report shall be submitted to the Town of New London Health Officer or designee.

33 During septic tank pumping, the tank is emptied, and the sludge and scum layers are removed. The
34 condition of the tank should be visually inspected to look for cracks, leaks and corrosion.
35

36 Deficiencies of the septic system shall be noted on the receipt that is submitted to the Health
37 Officer as evidence of pumping and general inspection.
38

39 **Waivers:** Owners of residential properties may apply for a waiver to the Board of Selectmen,
40 or designee. Criteria for a waiver shall demonstrate usage of 50% or less of a septic system
41 capacity on an annual basis. Examples would include permanent occupancy that is 50% or
42 less of the system's capacity, (i.e. 1-2 occupants with a 3-4-bedroom system) or
43 seasonal/intermittent occupancy that is 6 months or less within a 12-month period. In no case
44 shall a septic tank be pumped less often than once every 6 years. Waivers shall not be granted
45 for commercial properties or residential rental properties.

46 **Grease Trap Exception:** All commercial Food preparation facilities within the Town of New London,
47 on a septic system are required to have a grease trap system installed. All grease trap systems must
48 be pumped per manufacturer's or service provider's recommendation but no less than twice a year.

49 **Innovative/Alternate Technology (ITA) Systems:** The Health Officer shall maintain a list of
50 approved proprietary Innovative/Alternative Technology (ITA) septic systems as defined in NHDES
51 Env-Wq1024. Such systems shall be pumped out, inspected and maintained at a frequency
52 specified by the ITA manufacturer. The Health Officer may also request inspection records from the
53 manufacturers of the ITA systems.

54 **Holding Tanks:** Properties that have a 'holding tank' system shall have an inspection every 3 years
55 to assess tank integrity with pumping required by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental
56 Services (NHDES) regulations currently requiring pumping when the tank is at 80% capacity.

57 **Transfer of property**

58 Upon the transfer of a property, the new owner shall provide their contact information to the Health
59 Officer (or the designated office) to ensure the continuation of automated septic permit renewal
60 notices.

61 **Adoption**

62 A) These regulations shall be administered by the Health Officer or by the designee of the Board of
63 Selectmen. Any entity willfully violating these regulations shall be in violation.

64 B) Prior to the effective date, all property owners with Individual Sewage Disposal Systems will
65 receive written notice of the requirements of these regulations.

66 C) Property owners who have had their septic tanks pumped within 3 years prior to the effective
67 date of this regulation shall provide the Health Officer, or designee, with documentation of such
68 pumping within 90 days of the effective date. Failure to provide documentation shall lead to the
69 presumption that the septic tank has not been pumped or inspected within 3 years prior to the
70 effective date of this regulation.

71 D) Property owners who have their septic tank/ holding tank/ grease trap pumped out after the
72 effective date of this regulation shall provide the Health Officer or designee with documentation of

73 the pumping, including receipts from the Company that did the pumping, and the approximate
74 gallons of septage pumped. Such information shall be provided within 10 days of the pumping.

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76 **Effective Date**

77 January 1, 2026. Residents will be encouraged to voluntarily submit receipts as evidence of
78 pumping beginning July 1, 2025.

79 Explanation: To educate the residents of the Town of New London on the importance of protecting
80 our Watershed areas through efforts including regular maintenance of Individual Sewage Disposal
81 Systems, the effective date for this ordinance will be January 1, 2026. The Health Officer and the
82 Selectmen will encourage residents to voluntarily pump their Individual Sewage Disposal Systems
83 and submit receipts of pumping and general inspection during the year leading up to the effective
84 date.

85 Nicholas A. Baer, Health Officer, Town of New London