



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

210 S. W. 2nd ST
Newport, OR 97365
(541) 265-4192
Fax (541) 265-6945

RV CONNECTIONS TO EXISTING SEPTIC SYSTEM FAQs

Frequently asked questions:

*Can people displaced by the Echo Mountain Fire be allowed to – **on a temporary basis** - connect a Recreational Vehicle (RV) to an existing/operational onsite septic system?*

- **YES.** Under normal circumstances Oregon law prohibits the discharge of waste from an RV into a septic system designed and authorized to serve a single family dwelling.

Do people displaced by the fire, using RVs as temporary shelter, need to notify Lincoln County?

- **THATS RECOMMENDED.** At Lincoln County, we expect to develop a list of where people are staying. That way, we can ensure people displaced by the fire are **not** subject to code enforcement actions (because ordinarily, living in an RV in a single family neighborhood is a code violation, and, discharging waste from an RV into a septic system authorized for a dwelling is against Oregon law).

Can I get a copy of a map showing the location of my septic system?

- **YES.** The Lincoln County Planning & Development Department has files for most septic systems installed after 1974. Call us at 541-265-4192 or email at lincolncountybldgdiv@co.lincoln.or.us the to get this important information.

Contact Information:

- Lincoln County Department of Planning & Development, Second Street Annex, 210 SW Second Street, Newport OR 97365 or by phone at 541-265-4192 or at www.co.lincoln.or.us.

Process:

- Talk to a Planner. The Planners can assist you with RV use limitations and other requirements. Planners on staff include John O'Leary, Associate Planner and Onno Husing, Director and Planner for Lincoln County.

THINGS TO DO IF YOU ARE HOOKING UP AN RV TO A SEPTIC SYSTEM ALREADY SERVING A DWELLING

Recommendations to Protect your Septic System:

1. Before debris from the fire is removed from our property, please, know where your septic tank and drainfield are located (we can help you with that). Protect your septic tank and drainfield so it doesn't get damaged during debris removal.
2. Our Department should be able to give you a copy of a map showing where your septic system is and its design limitations. If we don't have that information, again, keep heavy equipment off your property until we can determine where your drainfield and septic tank.
3. Before discharging waste from an RV into a septic system, get your septic tank pumped first (especially if the tank has not been pumped recently). You don't want to overload your septic system – that could cause your system to fail and cost you expensive repairs.
4. Empty the contents of the RV (where human waste is stored) at a dump station BEFORE discharging waste from an RV into a septic system. RVs use disinfectants/chemicals in their holding tanks and those chemicals can damage onsite septic systems.
5. During the time an RV is also discharging waste into your septic system try to avoid the use of strong chemical cleaners. Also, do not dispose of medications into your toilet because they can also impact the functionality of a septic system.
6. Limit water during this time to keep from overloading the system.
7. Limit the use of garbage disposals or other activities that can add additional demands on your system.
8. Try to “stagger” laundry services and showers to avoid excess loads to your septic system.
9. If you haven't had your tank pumped within the last 3 years, have it pumped by a licensed pumper to remove excess solids and fats prior to connecting the RV.
10. Do not drive over or park your RV on any portion of the septic tank and drainfield.
11. If you spill sewage during the connection or disconnection of the RV place lime or bleach in a 1:10 ratio over the area to kill pathogens commonly found in sewage.