

# On-site Sewage: Septic Tank Cleaner

Septic tank cleaners must be certified by Nova Scotia Environment before they may offer certain services. This document outlines the steps a certified septic tank cleaner needs to take to pump, repair or modify a septic tank in accordance with the Environment Act and its regulations.

A person is required to obtain a certificate of qualification before starting his/her work as a septic tank cleaner.

A certificate of qualification as a septic tank cleaner is needed to:

- advertise or claim to be a septic tank cleaner
- pump, repair or modify a septic tank, pump or dosing chamber, holding tank or vault privy
- pump portable rest rooms
- clean a system using pressurized water or air

To be eligible for a certificate of qualification as a septic tank cleaner, a person must successfully complete the septic tank cleaner course of instruction. For more information, visit [wwns.ca](http://wwns.ca) or contact Waste Water Nova Scotia at [office@wwns.ca](mailto:office@wwns.ca).

To obtain or renew a certificate of qualification as a septic tank cleaner, you must submit the following to NSE:

- proof of successful completion of the septic tank cleaner course of instruction for new applicants
- completed application form ([novascotia.ca/nse/wastewater/docs/SepticTankCleaner-Application.pdf](http://novascotia.ca/nse/wastewater/docs/SepticTankCleaner-Application.pdf))
- required fee ([novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/envfees.htm](http://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/envfees.htm))
- proof of having general contractors' liability insurance
- proof that the applicant has access to an approved septicage disposal site

A certificate of qualification expires on the last day of the continuing education program. The continuing education program is administered by Waste Water Nova Scotia (WWNS) and runs on a four-year cycle. For more information, visit [wwns.ca](http://wwns.ca) or contact Waste Water Nova Scotia at [office@wwns.ca](mailto:office@wwns.ca).

To renew their certificate of qualification, the septic tank cleaner must either:

- successfully participate in the continuing education program
- or
- successfully complete the Septic Tank Cleaner Course of Instruction.

A person who is assisting a certified septic tank cleaner is not required to hold a certificate of qualification.

According to the regulations, a septic tank cleaner must also:

- comply with the terms and conditions of a certificate of qualification
- have a current certificate of qualification with them at all times when doing the work authorized by the certificate
- present a current certificate of qualification when requested by an NSE inspector
- notify the local Nova Scotia Environment Office and WWNS in writing of any change to their address or to any other identifying information provided with their application for their certificate of qualification or renewal of their certificate of qualification within 14 days of the change

The Minister of Environment, or an administrator appointed by the Minister, has the authority to issue, suspend and revoke a certification of a septic tank cleaner.