



*Nathan Sampson*  
Zoning Administrator

*Paul van Eijl*  
Zoning Technician/Inspector

## Repairs of an Existing System

- 1) Section 132.2 of the Buffalo County Sanitary Ordinance states that:
  - (3) A sanitary permit shall be obtained by the owner, his or her agent or contractor, before any private sewage system, part thereof or any non-plumbing sanitation system may be installed, replaced, reconnected to, modified or enlarged. A sanitary permit is not required for the addition of manhole covers, manhole risers, baffles or pumps.  
(A plumber is still required to do all reparations and repairs)
  - (5) If any part of a private sewage system has failed or needs replacement or modification, a sanitary permit shall be issued prior to repairing, modifying or replacing the system. The entire system shall be evaluated for compliance with codes regulating private sewage systems that were in effect at the time the system was installed prior to sanitary permit issuance. This shall include a soil and site evaluation for those components that utilize in situ soil for treatment and dispersal, unless a valid report exists and is on file with the Buffalo County Zoning Department. If any part of the system is found to be defective or not in compliance with the applicable provisions of this ordinance, the sanitary permit application shall include specifications for the repair, renovation, replacement or removal of that part of the system.
- 2) Documentation shall be provided to verify that:
  - A) Structures meet setbacks from all system components as required in Comm 83 Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- 3) Contact a plumber of choice. The plumber is responsible for acquiring the permit and to evaluate the soil absorption system for code compliance.
- 4) A county sanitary permit shall be issued after all documentation required is submitted and demonstrates that the private sewage system and all components comply with sizing and setback Administrative Code requirements in effect at the time the system was installed.
- 5) Exclusion: The office policy of the Buffalo County Zoning Department excludes the necessity of a county sanitary permit to replace up to 10' of cast iron pipe in and 10' of cast iron pipe out of a septic tank. This exclusion is based on the frequency of the procedure and the cost associated with it.

Note: The Zoning Department must still be notified each time this procedure is conducted. If the septic system was constructed before 1975, it may not be recorded. If the system must be repaired on a weekend, or holiday, the plumber may proceed with it. However, the plumber is responsible to notify zoning personal the next business day.

If you have any other questions, please call the zoning office.

Nathan Sampson/ Buffalo County Zoning Administrator (608) 685-6218  
Paul van Eijl/ Buffalo County Zoning Technician-Inspector (608) 685-6217