Drainfield Stress Test Requirements for Report of System Status (RSS)

When you inspect a gravity or pump to gravity septic system for a property sale, you must perform a drainfield stress test.

Requirements for certified professionals

You should test the drainfield with the water amounts specified below.

- Document any variation from these requirements.
- Perform the stress test from the outlet of septic/pump tank (or distribution box, as applicable). We recommend you perform the stress test before you pump.
- Use a flowmeter at the faucet or fill a 5-gallon bucket to determine the average flow per minute to measure stress test volume.
- Report your findings in OnlineRME.
  - Explain how you did the test.
  - List how many gallons the drainfield accepted without backing up.
  - List the time of the test in minutes.

Amount of water to use

For systems in use during the stress test:

- Use 120 gallons for each connected residence. You can complete this in the amount of time it takes to dose 120 gallons into the tank.

For systems not in use 24 hours before the stress test. If:

- You have a credible record drawing, multiply the number of bedrooms by 120 gallons. For example, a system approved for 3 bedrooms requires 360 gallons.
- The record drawing specifies a different design flow, use that number.
- You don’t have a credible record drawing, use the number of bedrooms listed on the RSS application or real estate listing. Choose whichever number is higher and multiply by 120 gallons.

Unsatisfactory test results

- An unsatisfactory stress test may require further investigation, remediation, or system replacement.
- The stress test is unsatisfactory if water returns to the tank or distribution box during the test.