



**TANKS-A-LOT**  
onsite water and sewage solutions

**INTRODUCTION  
TO  
PRIVATE SEWAGE  
SYSTEMS  
IN  
ALBERTA**





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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our guide on Private Sewage Systems in Alberta, brought to you by Tanks-A-Lot Ltd. As specialists in crafting concrete tanks for sewage and water, we understand the importance of providing homeowners with comprehensive information. Many Do-It-Yourselfers seek a straightforward answer to the question, "How much will it cost to put in my septic tank?" While we offer pricing details in the table below, it's crucial to recognize that this is just one component of a broader discussion.

## Minimum Tank Size By Number of Bedrooms (ABSOP-09)

Number Of bedrooms	Required Working Capacity *	Tanks model	2024 Tank Price **
2-3	740 gal	1220P	\$4,864.60
4	940 gal	1518P	\$5,709.60
5	1,150 gal	2000P	\$7,949.50
6	1,350 gal	2300P	\$8,695.70

*\*Assuming no garbage grinder or ' high flow' fixtures.*

*\*\*Tank prices include Lid(s), Safety screen kit for a riser, sealant for first extension. Prices are subject to change without notice. GST and Delivery costs are extra.*

Here, we aim to equip you with a thorough understanding of private sewage systems, particularly focusing on the benefits, installation process, and maintenance of concrete tanks. Our approach is professional, ensuring reliability and expertise while delivering valuable insights in a friendly and accessible manner. Whether you're considering a new installation or seeking guidance on maintaining your existing system, we're here to assist you every step of the way.

Let's delve into the essential aspects of private sewage systems in Alberta, empowering you to make informed decisions for your property's wastewater management needs.



# PURPOSE

This document serves multiple purposes, all aimed at providing homeowners with valuable insights into private sewage systems in Alberta.

Firstly, it brings attention to the regulatory requirements outlined in the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2009\* (ABSOP-09), ensuring compliance with established standards.

Secondly, it acts as a guide to introduce homeowners to the language and terminology associated with private sewage systems in Alberta, helping demystify technical jargon and enabling informed decision-making.

Additionally, this document presents a variety of solutions for on-site wastewater systems, showcasing the range of options available to homeowners for effective wastewater management tailored to their specific needs and circumstances.

Lastly, it serves to aid our customers in the initial stages of budgetary development, providing valuable information on costs associated with different system options and helping them plan effectively for their wastewater management needs.

*\*The Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice 2009 is available through the Alberta Safety Codes Council's Learning Resource Center. Call 780.427.5775 for details on obtaining a copy.*

# ALBERTA STANDARD OF PRACTICE 2009

Private sewage disposal systems, such as on-site septic tanks and treatment systems, must adhere to the guidelines set forth in ABSOP-09 which is a part of the building and safety codes framework regulated by Alberta Municipal Affairs. A key objective of ABSOP-09 is to outline rules that allow for various forms of onsite wastewater solutions to ensure the safe management of wastewater on-site while minimizing potential risks to public health and the environment.

This is the same Standard used to govern the permit approval process and prescribes the requirement for certification of installers in Alberta. It plays a crucial role in maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of private sewage systems, ultimately contributing to the overall safety and sustainability of wastewater management practices in the province.

According to ABSOP-09, a **Sewage Holding Tank** is defined as a CSA approved single-compartment tank used for containing wastewater produced at a residence. This kind of tank is emptied by a vacuum truck service; the sewage is carried off site for treatment. A **Septic Tank** is typically a 2- to 3-compartment tank in which solids are allowed to settle, while the liquid or **effluent** passes through to a pump or siphon chamber. As a part of this system, the effluent is discharged on-site through a treatment field, treatment mound or open discharge system. It is important to note that effluent is high in nitrogen and phosphorus, and it also contains pathogens such as fecal coliform, harmful to humans and animals. The final treatment process of effluent must take place in a Standard-Compliant system to safely return wastewater to the environment.

# BUDGETARY ESTIMATES



Estimating the cost of a Private Sewage Treatment System requires careful consideration by the installer/designer in direct consultation with the property owner. Total system costs can vary widely because of factors such as, but not limited to, geographic location, onsite soil conditions, site access and terrain, volume and type of wastewater produced, the number of bedrooms, and the type and size of the system that is appropriate for your site.

Considering these variables and others, it's typical to observe a wide range in costs for an onsite wastewater system, typically falling between \$10,000 to \$50,000. (Refer to the table below for details.) This range underscores the importance of a tailored approach to estimating costs, ensuring that the system implemented aligns with the unique requirements and characteristics of each property.



System Installed	Estimated Cost in thousands By Number of Bedrooms			
	3	4	5	6
Holding Tank (Note, holding tanks are normally sized according to vacuum truck)	9-12	11-15	12-16	12-18
Septic Tank and Open Discharge (If permitted by county)	7-10	8-11	10-15	10-15
Septic Tank and Treatment Field (Gravity fed)	9-18	10-19	n/a	n/a
Septic Tank and Treatment Field (Pressure fed)	14-22	15-25	20-30	22-35
Septic Tank and Treatment Mound	20-25	20-25	30-40	40-50
Secondary Treatment Plant and Treatment Field (Pressure fed)	20-25	20-25	30-40	40-50
Secondary Treatment Plant and Treatment Mound	25-35	25-35	30-40	40-50
Secondary Treatment Plant and At-Grade Treatment Mound (Requires code variance)	25-35	25-35	30-40	40-50

# SITE EVALUATION



*The objective of a site evaluation is to assess and quantify the capability of the site to infiltrate and disperse the effluent load into the soil in a manner that achieves the treatment objectives in the soil within the performance boundaries set for the on-site wastewater treatment system. – ABSOP-09 Sec. 7.1.1.1*

**A site evaluation as prescribed by ABSOP-09 will cover the following:**

1. An evaluation of topography, landscape position of the sewage treatment system, vegetation and surface drainage characteristics;
2. A proper examination of soil profiles in the area of soil-based treatment;
3. A description of soil, using Canadian System of Soil Classification nomenclature;
4. An investigation of surface elevations;
5. Property land uses and development;
6. An available area for construction of a sewage treatment system;
7. A properly documented report.

## WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

Upon reviewing this document, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We're here to address any inquiries you may have and provide guidance tailored to your specific needs.

Additionally, we can assist in connecting you with an AOWMA\* Certified Installer in your local area.

Ensuring your satisfaction and peace of mind is our utmost priority.

*\*Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association*



BUDGET WORKSHEET



ITEM		ESTIMATED COSTS
SITE EVALUATION		
1	Excavation	
2	Lab report	
TANK OR TREATMENT PLANT		
1	Septic Tank or Singulair® Advanced Treatment	
2	Delivery	
3	Excavation and Backfilling	
PUMP, PLUMBING & ALARMS		
1	Materials	
2	Installation	
FIELD SYSTEM		
1	Materials	
2	Installation	
TOTAL		





# **TANKS-A-LOT**

onsite water and sewage solutions

**(780) 472-8265**

**sales@tanks-a-lot.com**

**#100 – 53251 RR232**

**Sherwood Park, AB T8A 4V2**

**www.tanks-a-lot.com**

CONTACT INFORMATION



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