

4.30 Drainfield Remediation Components

Revision: October 25, 2011

Installer registration permit: Complex

Licensed professional engineer required: No

4.30.1 Description

Drainfield remediation components (DRC) are manufactured and *packaged* mechanical treatment devices designed to aid in restoring single-family dwelling drainfields that are biologically failing. Such devices may promote the biological breakdown of excessive buildup to the biological mat (biomat) in the absorption area. They consist of a self-contained drop-in unit that includes an aeration device, and they may or may not incorporate the use of proprietary bacteria and growth media. Installers must obtain an installation permit before installing a DRC, pursuant to IDAPA 58.01.03.005 (section 8.1).

4.30.2 Approval Conditions

1. A permit may be issued for a DRC only in approved, permitted systems, or systems that were installed before permitting requirements were established. In the absence of a permit, a site investigation may be needed to determine suitability for this type of component. If the site is not suitable for a DRC, then the sewage on ground protocol (section 7.1) shall be followed, and a repair permit shall be issued for a new drainfield to replace the failed drainfield.
2. Candidates for DRC installation are gravity drainfields that are failing due to excessive biomat growth. A single-family dwelling with gravity drainfields and system inspection is recommended to verify that the drainfield is not malfunctioning due to excessive hydraulic loading (e.g., leaking toilets, faucets, or high-occupancy rates), or soil structural changes due to use of an ion exchange water softener.
3. A DRC unit will be selected from the approved DRC listing in section 5.12. A PE licensed in Idaho, specializing in sanitary or environmental engineering, may design a drainfield remediation component and submit it for use under the experimental system section in this manual (section 4.7).
4. A manufacturer's checklist, warranty, and operations and maintenance instructions must be part of the permit application as specified in IDAPA 58.01.03.005.04.o (section 8.1) and become part of the permit upon permit approval. A record of component installation shall be provided to the health district before final approval of the permit and will become part of the final permit.
5. Once the DRC is installed, it must remain as part of the system unless removal is approved pursuant to IDAPA 58.01.03.005.01 (section 8.1).
6. The following statement shall be placed on the permit:
The health district is permitting this component for installation into an existing system and does not guarantee that it will remediate the failing system. If the component fails to adequately remediate the system, the owner may be required to take further measures to repair or replace the system. The health district shall be held harmless if the component fails to achieve the manufacturer's claims.