

Massachusetts Septic Contractor License Roadmap

Disposal System Installer's Permit

ContractorLicenseRequirements.com — verified 2026-09-30

Step-by-step roadmap

1. Identify the applicable installer pathway

The installer permit under 15.019 and construction permit under 15.020 are separate approvals. Possessing one does not replace the other.

2. Prepare the qualification records

Under 310 CMR 15.019, demonstrate knowledge of and experience with proper system installation to the local approving authority. Obtain its installer application, supporting-document requirements, and fee schedule.

3. Complete the applicable assessment and filing

Title 5 requires demonstrated competence; obtain the local authority's examination or other assessment procedure. Do not assume one statewide installer test applies in every municipality.

4. Obtain the project approvals

Identify the permitting authority for the property, secure the required approved plans and construction authorization, and arrange inspections before covering the work. Keep the occupational credential separate from the site approval.

5. Track the applicable renewal requirements

Title 5 limits an installer permit to a term of no more than two years. The local authority sets the actual term and renewal process, so two years should not be quoted as every town's renewal cycle.

Pre-application checklist

- Work scope and responsible authority identified
- Applicable qualification records prepared
- Required examination, training, and application completed
- Current fee and insurance requirements checked
- Site approval and inspection arrangements obtained
- Actual credential expiration and renewal requirements recorded

Key figures

Application fee: Not established; see fee guidance

Examination: Confirm with authority

Examination fee: Not established; confirm with provider

Initial license: Not established; see fee guidance

Renewal: Not established; see fee guidance; confirm the applicable renewal cycle

Estimated total cost: The reviewed sources do not establish a complete current fee schedule for this pathway.

Obtain the current application and renewal amounts from the issuing authority. Local project charges, training, insurance, and business costs are separate; unspecified amounts are not zero-cost exemptions.

Time to license: Depends on the selected pathway, qualification review, and local project approvals. No complete end-to-end timeframe is established here.

Fee scope: The reviewed sources do not establish a complete current fee schedule for this pathway. Obtain the current application and renewal amounts from the issuing authority. Local project charges, training, insurance, and business costs are separate; unspecified amounts are not zero-cost exemptions.

Renewal details: Title 5 limits an installer permit to a term of no more than two years. The local authority sets the actual term and renewal process, so two years should not be quoted as every town's renewal cycle.

Continuing education: Confirm the education requirements for the actual credential or local authorization. No unverified number of continuing-education hours is quoted here.

Primary sources

MassDEP / local approving authorities — Program: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/septic-systems-title-5-new-construction>
MassDEP — Title 5, 310 CMR 15.000: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/310-cmr-15000-title-5-of-the-state-environmental-code/>

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