

New Hampshire Septic Contractor License Roadmap

Septic system installer permit

ContractorLicenseRequirements.com — verified 2026-09-30

Step-by-step roadmap

1. Identify the applicable installer pathway

Older annual-renewal descriptions conflict with the current biennial language in RSA 485-A:36. Use the current statute and renewal instructions.

2. Prepare the qualification records

Apply to NHDES for the installer permit and demonstrate the competence required by RSA 485-A:36, including the ability to understand approved system plans. Use the current application rather than relying on a prior annual-renewal form.

3. Complete the applicable assessment and filing

The statute allows a written, oral, or combined examination to assess installer competence. Confirm the Department's current examination format and schedule.

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

The current statute specifies an \$80 initial permit and \$80 biennial renewal with 6 hours of approved continuing education per two-year period. Late filing can lead to suspension and eventual loss of the renewal route; do not work on the assumption that an expired permit remains valid.

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: Required

Examination fee: Not established; confirm with provider

Initial license: \$80.00

Renewal: \$80.00; every 2 year(s)

Estimated total cost: RSA 485-A:36 establishes \$80 initial and \$80 biennial installer permit charges. Training, examination-related costs, and project fees are separate where applicable.

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: RSA 485-A:36 establishes \$80 initial and \$80 biennial installer permit charges. Training, examination-related costs, and project fees are separate where applicable.

Renewal details: The current statute specifies an \$80 initial permit and \$80 biennial renewal with 6 hours of approved continuing education per two-year period. Late filing can lead to suspension and eventual loss of the renewal route; do not work on the assumption that an expired permit remains valid.

Continuing education: 6 approved CE hours per two-year renewal period.

Primary sources

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services — Law: <https://www.gc.nh.gov/rsa/html/L/485-A/485-A-36.htm>

NHDES — designer and installer renewal process: <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/designer->

[installer-renewal-process.pdf](#)

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