

South Carolina Septic Contractor License Roadmap

Tier 1 / Tier 2 / Tier 3 onsite installer

ContractorLicenseRequirements.com — verified 2026-09-30

Step-by-step roadmap

1. Identify the applicable installer pathway

Annual license renewal and two-year continuing-education periods are different schedules. Tier 1 authority does not include all commercial or specialized systems.

2. Prepare the qualification records

Apply for the appropriate tier and complete the examination. Tier 3 requires qualifying installation experience and the specified clean disciplinary history, plus bond and insurance. SCDES describes a three-year South Carolina experience route or a five-year out-of-state route.

3. Complete the applicable assessment and filing

Pass the SCDES examination with at least 80%. Arrange the examination with the local SCDES office and follow the waiting periods for any retake.

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

Renew the license annually. Tier 1 and Tier 2 cost \$100 annually; Tier 3 costs \$200. CE operates on a two-year schedule: 8 hours for Tier 1, 12 for Tier 2, and 18 for Tier 3. Check the current CE page for approved course restrictions.

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: \$100.00

Renewal: \$100.00; every 1 year(s)

Estimated total cost: Tier 1 or Tier 2 installer-only license: \$100 annually. Tier 3: \$200. Combined installer/pumper/hauler licenses are \$150 for Tier 1 or 2 and \$250 for Tier 3.

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: Tier 1 or Tier 2 installer-only license: \$100 annually. Tier 3: \$200. Combined installer/pumper/hauler licenses are \$150 for Tier 1 or 2 and \$250 for Tier 3.

Renewal details: Renew the license annually. Tier 1 and Tier 2 cost \$100 annually; Tier 3 costs \$200. CE operates on a two-year schedule: 8 hours for Tier 1, 12 for Tier 2, and 18 for Tier 3. Check the current CE page for approved course restrictions.

Continuing education: Every two years: Tier 1 needs 8 hours; Tier 2 needs 12; Tier 3 needs 18.

Primary sources

[South Carolina Department of Environmental Services — License: <https://des.sc.gov/permits-regulations/septic-tanks/permits-licenses/septic-tanks-licensing-osww-system-professionals>](https://des.sc.gov/permits-regulations/septic-tanks/permits-licenses/septic-tanks-licensing-osww-system-professionals)

[South Carolina Department of Environmental Services — Tier: https://www.des.sc.gov/permits-regulations/septic-tanks/licensing-septic-system-installers](https://www.des.sc.gov/permits-regulations/septic-tanks/licensing-septic-system-installers)
[SCDES — current installer continuing education: https://des.sc.gov/permits-regulations/septic-tanks/continuing-education-units-septic-system-installers](https://des.sc.gov/permits-regulations/septic-tanks/continuing-education-units-septic-system-installers)

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