

Tennessee Septic Contractor License Roadmap

Septic system installer permit

ContractorLicenseRequirements.com — verified 2026-09-30

Step-by-step roadmap

1. Identify the applicable installer pathway

Alternative categories are added to the installer's scope. Paying for the conventional permit does not authorize every alternative system.

2. Prepare the qualification records

Apply for the installer permit, pass the required examination, and complete the supervised installation. TDEC lists \$200 for the conventional installer permit and an additional \$100 for each alternative-system category.

3. Complete the applicable assessment and filing

Earn at least 70% on the installer examination and complete the required supervised installation. Confirm the testing and supervision arrangements with the environmental field office.

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 published installer guidance states that permits expire December 31 and that a lapse from the previous year can require a new examination. Confirm the current renewal invoice and any rule or statutory changes before paying; the initial permit price is not used here as a verified renewal charge.

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: \$200.00

Renewal: Not established; see fee guidance; every 1 year(s)

Estimated total cost: TDEC's installer page lists a \$200 conventional permit and \$100 per additional alternative category. The current renewal amount is not established here.

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: TDEC's installer page lists a \$200 conventional permit and \$100 per additional alternative category. The current renewal amount is not established here.

Renewal details: The published installer guidance states that permits expire December 31 and that a lapse from the previous year can require a new examination. Confirm the current renewal invoice and any rule or statutory changes before paying; the initial permit price is not used here as a verified renewal charge.

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

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation — License: <https://www.tn.gov/environment/permits/water/septic-systems-permits/ssp/permit-water-septic-system-related-permits.html>

[TDEC — installer application and renewal FAQ: https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/land-based-systems-unit/wr_sds_septic-installers-pumpers-faq.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/water/land-based-systems-unit/wr_sds_septic-installers-pumpers-faq.pdf)

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