

Virginia Septic Contractor License Roadmap

Virginia Onsite Sewage System Installer — Conventional / Alternative, Journeyman / Master

ContractorLicenseRequirements.com — verified 2026-09-30

Step-by-step roadmap

1. Identify system and role

Choose conventional or alternative and journeyman or master. Also check the contracting business's CDS/ADS specialty.

2. Select a current qualification route

Use the post-December-2025 experience table and obtain verification from an authorized verifier.

3. Submit the individual application

Provide identity/address and disclosure information, supporting experience/training records, and the current fee.

4. Resolve examination status

Journeyman routes are not examined under the current tables. Master applicants test unless the board approves an applicable exemption.

5. Observe supervision and business scope

Journeymen work under the proper master. Confirm the separate business contractor authority before contracting.

6. Renew with category-specific CE

Use the correct installer category's CE hours and pay the renewal invoice, including applicable technology charges.

Pre-application checklist

- System class and installer category selected
- Business CDS/ADS scope checked
- Current experience pathway documented
- Authorized verifier signs records
- Current application fee and disclosures submitted
- Examination passed or exemption approved when needed
- Supervision arranged for journeyman work
- Category-specific CPE and renewal invoice tracked

Key figures

Application fee: \$114.50

Examination: Depends on pathway

Examination fee: No separate fee recorded

Initial license: No separate charge for this pathway

Renewal: Not established; see fee guidance; every 2 year(s)

Estimated total cost: \$114.50 conventional installer application; add the listed \$80 exam charge for a tested master pathway, making \$194.50 in those two charges. Journeyman and approved waiver pathways have different examination costs. Training, the separate contractor-business license, and project costs are additional. Renewal's \$80 base amount is not an all-inclusive invoice.

Time to license: Depends on training, application review, and examination scheduling; no fixed end-to-end timeframe is established here.

Fee scope: The July 2026 conventional installer application totals \$114.50: the \$100 base fee plus \$14.50 technology fee. The table's \$80 renewal is the regulatory base fee; DPOR's separate technology-fee notice must also be checked against the renewal invoice. Exam costs depend on the pathway.

Renewal details: Expiration is two years from the last day of the issuance month. The \$80 recorded renewal is the regulation's base amount; confirm the payable total including applicable technology fees with DPOR. After 30 days, reinstatement is required, available for up to 24 months after expiration. That filing window does not authorize practice while expired.

Continuing education: Per section 330, each two-year cycle requires 4 hours for conventional journeyman installers, 6 for alternative journeyman installers, 10 for conventional masters, and 14 for alternative masters. The rule exempts renewals of licenses held for less than two years on the expiration date.

Primary sources

Virginia DPOR — onsite sewage board, exams and technology-fee notice: <https://www.dpor.virginia.gov/Boards/WWWOOSSP>

Virginia Administrative Code — current onsite sewage professional rules: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincodefull/title18/agency160/chapter40/>

DPOR — conventional installer application, July 2026: <https://www.dpor.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/boards/WWWOOSSP/A436-1944CONLIC.pdf>

DPOR — master conventional installer examination-waiver application: <https://www.dpor.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/boards/WWWOOSSP/A436-1944WAIV.pdf>

Virginia Administrative Code — CDS and ADS contractor specialties: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title18/agency50/chapter22/section30/>

DPOR — onsite sewage installer universal license recognition application: https://www.dpor.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/boards/WWWOOSSP/A436-1944INSTL_ULR.pdf

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