

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Within the Division of Industry Services, two programs have the responsibility of safeguarding public health and the waters of the State. The General Plumbing Program regulates plumbing installations including graywater reuse, stormwater plumbing systems, cross-connection controls, and household water treatment devices. Private on-site wastewater treatment systems that receive domestic wastewater and discharge to the subsurface are regulated by the Private On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) Program.

FY 2024 Highlights

- Counties are operating a maintenance program for all POWTS in their jurisdiction.
- The Department continued offering training programs for the POWTS industry. This included monthly DSPS POWTS program updates provided virtually, technical training, and inspector training targeting new county inspection staff.
- The Department hired two new POWTS plan review positions authorized under 2023 WI Act 19. The positions are focused on providing quicker plan review service.
- The law authorizing the Wisconsin Fund grant program was previously repealed. Under the 2021-23 and 2024-25 State budgets, temporary authority and funding for the program was restored through each budget. The law authorizing the grant program is repealed effective June 2025 at the end of the 2024-25 budget.
- On April 1, 2024, the DSPS suspended use of the hydrograph procedure used in the POWTS soil and site evaluation process due to erratic groundwater fluctuations causing unpredictable results with utilizing the method. The method was only allowed to be used in five WI counties in the Central Sands region.
- The Department hired one new plumbing plan reviewer within the Northwest region of Wisconsin. In addition, the Department has been granted 1 additional plumbing plan reviewer position under 2023 WI Act 19.

Details of Ongoing Activities

Plumbing – Reuse, Stormwater and Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS)

In addition to public health and safety, the water supply and quality issues facing Wisconsin are a focus of the General Plumbing and POWTS programs in the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

General Plumbing – Reuse and Stormwater Use

The Department plumbing code includes standards for reuse of wastewater and stormwater. Currently, the Chapter SPS 382 stormwater rules create the ability for plumbing to be integrally involved with the design and installation of storm systems complying with Chapter NR 151, Wis. Admin. Code.

The Department updated the plumbing code which included Chapters SPS 381, 382, 383, and 384 in the Fall of 2023. The updated plumbing code included stormwater infiltration

and bioretention systems to comply with the requirements of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources standards for site evaluation.

Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS)

The Department maintains regular contact with the Department of Natural Resources regarding mutual issues of interest such as large onsite sewage systems, mixed wastewater treatment systems, Underground Injection Control (UIC) regulations, septage disposal and water well regulations. The Department also communicates with the US EPA Region 5 office regarding POWTS related matters. Department staff participate when requested in the development of a regional and national model code related to on-site sewage systems.

Data Management

DSPS continues to modernize its services to benefit the state's workforce. The department continues to add more licensing services to its online occupational licensing system, retiring older, paper applications and forms. Initial applications for a Trades or Unarmed Combat Sports license, as well as manufactured home professional licenses and community permits, must now be completed in [LicenseE](#), the department's online licensing platform. This move follows the previous migration of Health and Businesses licensing services to the same online platform.

The department's plan submittal and permitting software program called eSLA which stands for the Electronic Safety and Licensing Application receives continuous upgrades to improve performance and public transparency. The program allows electronic submission, fee submission, review, and communications in a comprehensive paperless format. Customers can monitor the progress of each submission from beginning to conclusion.

For further information:

Visit the following web site: dsps.wi.gov/pages/Home.aspx

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