



*Environmental Public Health Division
2 N. Meridian St., 7D
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The Use of the ECOJOHN® SepticJohn Waste Combustion Models WC5, WC32, WC48, and WC64 In One- and Two- Family Dwellings

Purpose:

The purpose of this guidance document is to provide directive concerning the use of the ECOJOHN® SepticJohn Waste Combustion System or incinerating toilets in single family dwellings, hereafter referred to as the SepticJohn Combustion System. The proposed use of incinerating toilets in commercial facilities is handled by the state department of health (department) on a case-by-case basis.

Background:

The department sets minimum standards for residential (one- and two-family dwellings) on-site sewage systems in 410 IAC 6-8.3, Residential On-site Sewage Systems. Section 51(a) of that rule stipulates that the rule is administered by local boards of health through their health officer and their authorized representatives. The rule addresses on-site system equipment and devices located outside of the dwelling. Therefore, indoor appurtenances such as composting and incinerating toilets are not addressed.

Discussion:

The SepticJohn Combustion System accepts human body waste into a holding tank in which it is stored until incineration, typically using electricity, natural gas, or propane. The SepticJohn Combustion System is designed to address the proper elimination of all water-carried wastewater generated within a one- or two-family dwelling through incineration. The incineration product is sterile ash. The use of the SepticJohn Combustion System eliminates the wastewater volume. Wastewater from water softener backwash must still be disposed of in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and ordinances. In addition, a homeowner may tire of the responsibilities of operation and maintenance, or the residence may be sold to a person who chooses to replace the SepticJohn Combustion System with a different type of on-site sewage system. Therefore, the cost of the purchase, installation and maintenance of the SepticJohn Combustion System is in addition to the cost of an installed sewage holding tank designed and installed in accordance with 410 IAC 6-8.3. The homeowner is responsible for handling the ash from the SepticJohn Combustion System units. Although some manufacturers and distributors claim a pathogen reduction to "safe" levels, pathogen levels may vary greatly according to the operation and maintenance of the specific unit. The homeowner bears the responsibility of the proper disposal of any ash.

Decision:

The local health officer or their designee may allow the use of a SepticJohn Combustion System in a one-or two-family dwelling when a sewage holding tank has been designed and installed in accordance with 410 IAC 6-8.3, this guidance document, and the installation of the SepticJohn Combustion System will comply with all applicable ordinances, and building, plumbing and electrical codes. A local health department onsite sewage

system construction permit must be obtained prior to use of this product. The following guidance and conditions of use are provided to local health departments concerning the use of the SepticJohn Combustion System:

1. The use of SepticJohn Combustion System is not a substitute for an on-site sewage holding tank that is designed and installed in accordance with 410 IAC 6-8.3.
2. Sizing of the subsurface sewage holding tank must be a minimum of 3 times the design daily flow (DDF) for the project.
3. The SepticJohn Combustion System design must incorporate only in-ground subsurface sewage holding tanks. No above grade tanks will be allowed for use.
4. The selection of the SepticJohn Combustion System model shall be based on the number of bedrooms (and equivalents) in the residence or DDF, not on the number of occupants. Sizing of 150 gallons per bedroom (or equivalent) per day (Rule 410 IAC 6-8.3-12) is to be used for determining the “Burning Capacity” for selecting the appropriate SepticJohn model.
5. The SepticJohn Combustion System shall be certified by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) to be in compliance with NSF Standard P157 and be published in their Listing of Certified Electrical Incinerating Toilets-Health and Sanitation.
6. The SepticJohn Combustion System should be installed and operated according to the specifications of the manufacturer and be operated and maintained in a manner that will preclude any potential pollution or health hazards.
7. The SepticJohn Combustion System must be in a physically separate structure which is not attached to the residence. Alternate design will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Indiana Department of Health.
8. ECOJOHN® is responsible for training and certifying installers and service providers of the SepticJohn Combustion System.
9. The disposal of any ash, or residue from the SepticJohn Combustion System shall be at an approved landfill and not used in vegetable or ornamental gardens, or on a lawn.

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