



NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

For information contact: Shawnna Rhine, Community Outreach Coordinator/Public Information Officer
Southern 7 Health Department & Head Start

Office: 618-626-2355 Cell: 618-614-9223 Southern 7 Central Office: 618-634-2297 Email: srhine@s7hd.org

(9/18/25) Residents Advised to Use Caution When Hiring Private Sewage Disposal Contractors

Southern 7 Health Department is advising residents to exercise caution when hiring contractors to install, repair, or replace private sewage disposal systems. The health department has received reports of unlicensed individuals misrepresenting themselves as qualified contractors and offering to complete sewage work.

In many cases, these individuals fail to complete the work or install systems that do not meet state and local code requirements. This most often results in relatively quick failure of the system or sewage backups in the home. Improperly constructed sewage disposal systems may contaminate groundwater, create public health hazards, and result in costly legal or corrective action for the property owner.

To prevent falling victim to these scams, residents should always confirm that contractors are licensed, bonded, and insured before entering into any agreements. Verification can be obtained directly through the health department or licensing authority.

Homeowners are strongly encouraged to request written contracts that clearly outline the scope of work, payment schedule, and permit requirements. Be wary of contractors who insist on full payment in advance, pressure immediate decisions, or refuse to provide documentation of licensure.

Protecting your investment and the community's health begins with hiring only qualified, reputable professionals. As a reminder, repairs, replacements, and installation of new private sewage disposal systems are required to be permitted by your local health department.

For more information, contact Southern 7 Health Department at 618-634-2297, ext. 973114.

Southern 7 Health Department is a public health department that serves communities of the seven southernmost counties in Illinois focusing on disease prevention, promoting of healthy lifestyles, and ensuring access to healthcare services for the region.

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