



Mariposa County Health Department

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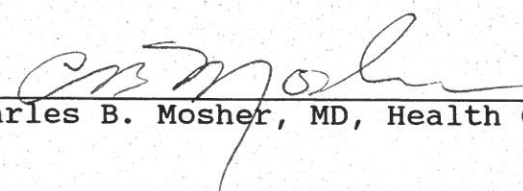
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MARIPOSA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT POLICY

TESTING SEPTIC TANKS FOR WATER TIGHTNESS

POLICY # 95-1

1. Each tank manufacturer will set up a demonstration for us of his tank's water tightness. This demonstration can be set up at the site of an installation in the field, or at some other location such as the manufacturer's yard.
2. Once a manufacturer has adequately demonstrated the water tightness of his tanks, the Health Department will "certify" those tanks as water tight when manufactured and installed in the same manner as demonstrated during the testing. Further testing will not be necessary on a routine basis.
3. Tanks will be inspected at the time of installation, checking for the following things:
 - a. Installation consistent with the manner in which the tank was previous "certified" as water tight.
 - b. Pipe connections, including sanitary T's.
 - c. Making certain there are no broken pipes or connections.
 - d. Checking the vents.
 - e. Checking the baffles.
 - f. Checking for any obvious break in the tank (including plastic tanks).
4. In unusual circumstances, such as conditions of high risk (e.g. reduced setback to a water source, high groundwater, etc.), or where it is documented that a given tank installation may not be water tight, testing for water tightness may be required by the Health Department before the septic installation is "finalized".


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