

HEALTH REGULATIONS BANNING THE FUTURE USE OF SEPTIC TANK AND CESSPOOL CLEANERS

The Board of Health finds that groundwater supplies of this town and the health of citizens dependent on those supplies may be jeopardized by organic chemicals leaching into the ground from use of septic tank and cesspool cleaners containing such chemicals. Since Harwich is totally dependent on its groundwater resources, the continued use of these compounds constitutes a potential threat to the public health of the residents of Harwich.

Therefore, the Harwich Board of Health hereby adopts the following Regulations pursuant to its authority within Massachusetts General Law Chapter 111, Section 31:

1. From the thirtieth day onward after adoption of this Regulation, it shall be unlawful in this town to distribute or to use any septic system or cesspool cleaner that is listed in Section 2 below.
2. No substance which has a pH of less than 4.3 or greater than 8.2; nor any organic solvent; nor any substance which has been classified by a Massachusetts state or federal agency as a toxic substance shall be discharged into any portion of a subsurface sewage disposal system for the purpose of cleaning or unclogging said system. Examples of such substances would include but are not limited to products containing: Methylene Chloride, Orthodichlorobenzene, 1,1,1 Trichloroethane, Trichloroethylene, and Acids.
3. As may be necessary for the enforcement of these Regulations, the Board will use its power to inspect premises, to notify of violations, and to seek civil injunctive relief or fines against violators.

Adopted 10/14/1987

HARWICH BOARD OF HEALTH

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