

2023 STATE OF MAINE SUBSURFACE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL RULES
ACCESS OPENINGS FOR ALL SEPTIC AND PRE-TREATMENT TANKS

1. All septic tanks: Access openings for septic tanks must meet the following requirements: a. Minimum access opening: All septic tanks must be constructed to provide an access to each tank compartment. Each access must be: at least 18 inches along the side, if square; at least 18 inches in diameter, if round; and as nearly as possible centered over the compartment. b. Additional openings: Additional inspection openings, at least 6 inches square or 6 inches in diameter, must be located on the top of the tank directly above the tank inlet and outlet connections.

2. Single-family dwelling units: Access opening for septic tanks serving single-family dwelling units must meet the following requirements:

a. Access openings: Access openings for all septic tanks are required to have a minimum of one watertight riser to finish grade in order to simplify location and maintenance. The riser must be located at the appropriate opening to facilitate pumping. The riser opening must be at least 18 inches in diameter over the tank cover. The pump station riser is required to extend to finished grade and must be sized to accommodate removal and installation of any pump(s) within the tank. Outlet baffles that utilize an effluent filter must have a riser of at least 18 inches in diameter extended to finish grade. Other risers may terminate to within 6 inches of finished grade.

b. Septic tank covers: Septic tank covers must be removable and flush with the tank top. Concrete tank covers must be chamfered on all edges. They must have a steel lifting loop equal to a #2 reinforcing bar, which is cast in place and projects enough for a 1 and ½- inch diameter object to pass through the loop. Tank covers made from other materials must be lift-out, screwed, or bolted.

3. Other facilities: Access to all septic tanks serving facilities other than single family dwellings must be located at grade as described in this Section. Grade must slope away from the openings.

a. Compartment manholes: Manholes must have a watertight riser of the same material as the tank. Use H-20 construction in traffic areas. Provide bolted, gas tight, or locking covers where appropriate.