



DIVISION POLICY
**CESSPOOL
REPLACEMENT**

Gila County Community Development
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Wastewater

W8

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Policy Statement

The current Gila County Wastewater Department policy regarding *waste systems installed prior to 1976* is stated in the Gila County Health Department letter dated 12/9/1996 and partially quoted here:

“**Any** system that was installed prior to 1976 including but not limited to cesspools, homemade septic tanks, or other sewage disposal hybrid devices would be grandfathered in until these “systems” fail or the residence plumbing is modified.”

In support of this policy the following practices were implemented:

Nuisance Complaint Investigation:

- Should failure be discovered through the complaint process, while investigating a possible Environmental Nuisance or during any normal business activity undertaken by Gila County, the failure must be immediately corrected. Possible corrective actions include:
 - o Ceasing use of the home or
 - o Install an appropriate wastewater treatment system.**(Failure** means any structural or hydraulic failure and is evidenced by such things as collapsed lids, deterioration of sidewall structural components, back-up of sewage into the home, groundwater contamination or surfacing of sewage.)

Building Clearance:

- The Wastewater Department will not approve the submittal of building plans for any property served by a cesspool if those plans alter the wastewater flow characteristics (increase number of bedrooms or plumbing fixtures) on the property.