



September 2020 | HEADLINES

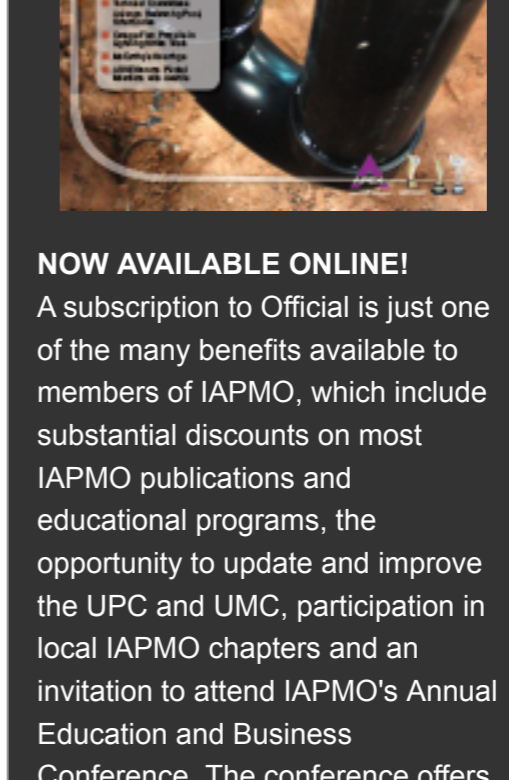
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**EPA's Eighth Annual SepticSmart Week: Safeguard Your Family's Health, Protect the Environment, and Save Money**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), supported by state and local governments, the private sector, communities, and academia, will sponsor its eighth SepticSmart Week, Sept. 14-18, an annual event focused on educating homeowners and communities on the proper care and maintenance of their septic systems.

More than one-fifth of U.S. households utilize an individual onsite system or small community cluster septic system to treat their wastewater. These systems treat and dispose of relatively small volumes of wastewater and include a wide range of individual and cluster treatment options to process household and commercial sewage. These systems go by such names as septic, decentralized wastewater treatment, cluster, package plants, on-lot, individual sewage disposal, and private sewage.

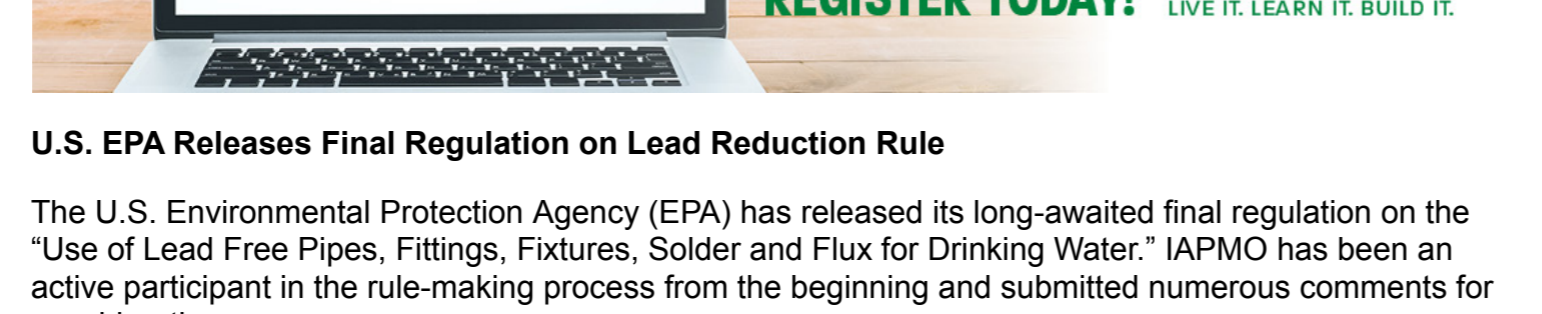
Onsite systems provide a cost-effective, long-term option for treating wastewater, particularly in sparsely populated areas. When properly installed, operated, and maintained, these systems help protect public health, preserve valuable water resources, and maintain a community's economic vitality.

EPA's SepticSmart initiative is a nationwide public education effort offering educational resources to homeowners, local organizations, and government leaders to explain how septic systems work and provide tips on how to properly maintain them. Organizations and individuals wishing to promote SepticSmart Week 2020 are encouraged to create public awareness about the event and share helpful tips, such as:

- **Think at the Sink!** What goes down the drain has a big impact on your septic system. Fats, grease, and solids can clog a system's pipes and drainfield.
- **Don't Overload the Commode!** A toilet is not a trash can. Disposable diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products, coffee grounds, cigarette butts, and cat litter can damage a septic system.
- **Don't Strain Your Drain!** Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances. Too much water use at once can overload a system that hasn't been pumped recently.
- **Shield Your Field!** Tree and shrub roots, cars, and livestock can damage your septic drainfield.
- **Keep it Clean!** Contamination can occur when a septic system leaks due to improper maintenance. Be sure your drinking water is safe to drink by testing it regularly.
- **Protect it and inspect it!** Regular septic system maintenance can save homeowners thousands of dollars in repairs and protect public health.
- **Pump Your Tank!** Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regularly intervals as recommended by a professional and/or local permitting authority.

SepticSmart Week 2020 encourages homeowners, wastewater professionals, and state, tribal, and local officials to design and maintain effective systems to safeguard your family's health, protect the environment, and save money. Be part of the solution by visiting [www.epa.gov/septic](http://www.epa.gov/septic) for an abundance of resources and information.

IAPMO recently signed a proclamation observing Septic Week: [iapmonline.org/2020/09/24/iapmo-ceo-russ-charney-signs-septic-smart-proclamation/](http://iapmonline.org/2020/09/24/iapmo-ceo-russ-charney-signs-septic-smart-proclamation/)



**U.S. EPA Releases Final Regulation on Lead Reduction Rule**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released its long-awaited final regulation on the "Use of Lead Free Pipes, Fittings, Fixtures, Solder and Flux for Drinking Water." IAPMO has been an active participant in the rule-making process from the beginning and submitted numerous comments for consideration.

The rule's goal is to reduce lead in drinking water and assure that states, manufacturers, inspectors and consumers have a common understanding of "lead-free" plumbing. In the final rule, the EPA makes conforming changes to existing regulations based on the Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act of 2011 (RLDWA) and the Community Fire Safety Act enacted by Congress. The final rule also requires that manufacturers or importers certify that their products meet the requirements using a consistent verification process within three years of the final rule publication date in the Federal Register.

Read more: [www.iapmo.org/group/update/epa-lead-reduction-rule](http://www.iapmo.org/group/update/epa-lead-reduction-rule)

**Report on Comments Toward Development of 2021 USHGC, USPSHTC Now Available for Online Download**

IAPMO, developer of the *Uniform Solar, Hydronics and Geothermal Code (USHGC)* and *Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Code (USPSHTC)*, has posted online the 2020 *Report on Comments (ROC)* for the 2021 editions of these prospective American National Standard-designated model codes. The ROC is the technical committee report on the actions taken by the technical committee accompanied by a ballot statement and one or more comments resulting from public review of the *Report on Proposals (ROP)*.

Interested parties are encouraged to download these documents at the following URLs:

- USHGC**
- USPSHTC**

Read more: [www.iapmo.org/group/update/2021-ushgc-uspshtc-roc](http://www.iapmo.org/group/update/2021-ushgc-uspshtc-roc)

**IAPMO R&T Contracts with Martin Weiss as European Continuous Compliance Inspector**

IAPMO R&T, North America's premier third-party testing and certification body for plumbing, mechanical and water treatment products, has enlisted the services of Martin Weiss as Continuous Compliance Inspector for current and prospective European clients. Weiss spent the previous 20 years at Grohe Research and Development Department (Germany) in various technical areas, including thermostats, one-hand mixers, kitchen faucets and sanitary systems. In addition, Weiss served as project supervisor responsible for drinking water systems.

Weiss earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Energy and Heating Technology from the University of Applied Sciences in Giessen-Friedberg, Germany, and began his career as a test engineer at the Grohe Function Laboratory. Over the next two decades he would serve as deputy supervisor, supervisor and head of department. His achievements at Grohe include overseeing the opening of a new laboratory, which included merging three laboratories into one.

Read more: [www.iapmo.org/group/update/weiss-rt](http://www.iapmo.org/group/update/weiss-rt)

**Legionella Found in School Water Systems Following Lockdown**

A number of schools across the United States have found Legionella bacteria in their water over the past few weeks. A new report from the New York Times found that schools reopening across the United States could face outbreaks of the waterborne Legionella bacteria, which causes Legionnaires' disease. The bacteria can form in stagnant water and then disperse through the air and be inhaled when the water is running again.

Experts worry that water in schools have been left stagnant since the Covid-19 pandemic forced them to shut down in March, and it has raised concerns about health authorities for dealing with the effects of prolonged shutdowns. The usual guard against Legionella is by flushing the water, and then testing the water for bacteria, although some schools don't have the budget to run such tests.

In Ohio, officials found Legionella at five schools in an assortment of towns. Shortly thereafter, a district in Pennsylvania also announced it had found Legionella at four of its schools. The C.D.C. has issued guidelines for business and building reopening's after coronavirus lockdowns. A spokeswoman from the agency said that its guidelines are "applicable to all types of buildings," including schools. But the vagueness of many of the guidelines, according to experts in the field, means that schools can do as much or as little of general preventive steps and claim to be compliant. Caitlin Proctor, a postdoctoral fellow at Purdue who has been studying Legionella during lockdown, said that despite the use of chlorine, the bacteria's biofilms can protect some of them from disappearing completely.

Read the full article: [www.nytimes.com/2020/08/27/health/covid-schools-legionnaires-disease.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/27/health/covid-schools-legionnaires-disease.html)

**Registration Now Open for Watersmart Innovations Webinar Series**

While we can't be together in person this year, the WaterSmart Innovations Conference & Expo invites you to participate in a series of FREE, informative webinars presented by water-efficiency professionals and WSI veterans working in a broad array of disciplines.

Registration is now open for the WaterSmart Innovations Webinar Series. Beginning September 23 at 10 a.m. Pacific time, three half-hour webinars will be presented each week for six consecutive Wednesdays. Topics covered include water conservation, marketing, water loss, and landscape irrigation.

Among the presenters scheduled to participate in the Webinar Series are

- Mary Ann Dickinson, Alliance for Water Efficiency
- Michael Dukes, University of Florida
- Jonah Schein, U.S. EPA WaterSense Program
- Lisa Maddaus, Maddaus Water Management, Inc.
- Catherine Chavez-Morris, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- and many more top water demand management experts.

Participate in four or more individual webinars and you'll be entered to win one of three full-conference registrations plus hotel accommodations for the next WaterSmart Innovations Conference & Expo, scheduled for October 6-7, 2021. Participation is limited, so register now.

The WaterSmart Innovations Webinar Series is presented in cooperation with our conference partners, the Alliance for Water Efficiency, the U.S. EPA's WaterSense Program, the American Water Works Association, California Landscape Contractors Association, California Water Efficiency Partnership, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, Imagine H2O, International Center for Water Technology, and Irrigation Association.

Find out more at [WaterSmartInnovations.com](http://WaterSmartInnovations.com), and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn for program updates.

**The Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering (CIPHE) Launch Flip 'n' Flush Campaign**

The Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering (CIPHE), is advising everyone to flip down the toilet seat before they flush, in a new campaign aimed to help stop the spread of coronavirus, germs and other nasties spread by 'toilet plume.'

**The background**  
 The term toilet plume is nothing new and has been researched numerous times over the years. When lavatories are flushed, turbulence from the toilet bowl can enable tiny droplets and aerosol particles to be released into the air.

It had been generally accepted that while there was a small risk of transmission of illnesses, for the healthy and those with good hygiene, it would pose few problems. Germs don't tend to survive long on surfaces such as toilet seats and hand washing was normally enough to wash away any harmful bacteria or viruses. Then Coronavirus hit.

**The problem**  
 New research – Can a toilet promote virus transmission? From a fluid dynamics perspective by Yun-yun Li, Ji-Xiang Wang and Xi Chen – warns that 40-60% of toilet plume particles can reach to a height of 106.5 cm above the ground – well in excess of the height of a toilet seat – enabling the spread of particles on nearby surfaces. During computer simulations, particles could also stay suspended in the air long enough to be breathed in post-flushing.

This increases the potential spread of bacteria and viruses in the surrounding area of the toilet and makes the transmission of germs a real possibility. This has big implications both in the home, where family bathrooms are also used for activities such as teeth brushing, and public lavatories, where multiple users can come into contact with contaminated surfaces.

Read more: [www.worldplumbing.org/the-chartered-institute-of-plumbing-and-heating-engineering-ciphe-launch-flip-n-flush-campaign/](http://www.worldplumbing.org/the-chartered-institute-of-plumbing-and-heating-engineering-ciphe-launch-flip-n-flush-campaign/)

**EPA Finalizes First Ever Rule to Promote Transparency in Developing Regulatory Guidance Documents**

At a speech in front of the Federalist Society, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Andrew Wheeler announced the final rule to establish consistent requirements and procedures for the issuance of guidance documents. The final rule follows the direction of President Trump's Executive Order to promote transparency through improved agency guidance practices throughout the federal government.

"Today's action is perhaps the biggest change in administrative procedures in a generation and one of the pillars of EPA reform under President Trump," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "This historic rule guarantees the transparency the public deserves when engaging with the agency. This is a massive step forward for EPA bringing these legal documents into the light."

The final rule will significantly increase the transparency of EPA's guidance practices and will improve the agency's process for managing guidance documents. The rule, among other elements, will:

- Establishes the first formal petition process for the public to request that EPA modify, withdraw or reinstate a guidance document.
- Ensure that the agency's guidance documents are developed with appropriate review and are accessible to the public.
- Allows public participation in the development of significant guidance documents.

Read more: [www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-first-ever-rule-promote-transparency-developing-regulatory-guidance](http://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-first-ever-rule-promote-transparency-developing-regulatory-guidance)

**Dodge Momentum Index Inches Up in August**

The Dodge Momentum Index increased 1.8% in August to 126.5 (2000=100) from the revised July reading of 124.2. The Momentum Index, issued by Dodge Data & Analytics, is a monthly measure of the first (or initial) report for nonresidential building projects in planning, which have been shown to lead construction spending for nonresidential buildings by a full year. In August, the commercial component rose 3.3%, while the institutional component moved 1.2% lower.

The August increase in the overall Momentum Index is the second consecutive rise and a further sign that the construction sector continues to post a modest recovery following the large declines in April and June. This recovery, though, is uneven. The commercial component has risen since its June low and is just 13% below its 2018 peak fueled by increased planning activity for warehouse and office projects. The institutional component, however, has declined for five consecutive months and has yet to hit bottom. The institutional component is now 24% below its recent peak. The public side of the building market is suffering as state and local government revenues have declined, creating budget cuts across the country. This has led to a significant pullback in education projects entering planning, placing substantial downward pressure on the institutional component of the Momentum Index.

Read more: [www.construction.com/news/dodge-momentum-index-inches-up-august-2020](http://www.construction.com/news/dodge-momentum-index-inches-up-august-2020)

**ARCSA Annual Conference Sponsorship Opportunities Available**

ARCSA's Annual Conference is the premier gathering for the rainwater harvesting industry, bringing together practitioners, suppliers, academics, and enthusiasts. The 2020 ARCSA Annual Conference will be unique in that it will be our first virtual conference.

ARCSA's conference will again feature an outstanding lineup of industry leaders and innovators from the U.S. and Internationally. Don't miss this opportunity to raise your profile within the industry while showing support for ARCSA!

Download Sponsorship Form  
 Event Details Here

