

# HOMEOWNERS GUIDE TO INSTALLATION OF SEPTIC TANK & DRAINFIELD

## A Cartoon Illustration in English & Spanish

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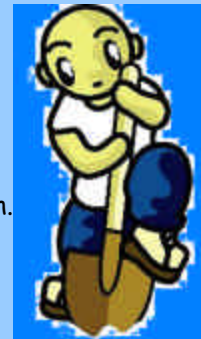
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### PROBLEM

Many homeowners throughout the Southwest border region attempt to install their own septic tank and drainfield with limited skills or expertise. Although numerous do-it-yourself teaching materials are available, many residents have limited English language skills. Others are even poorly literate in Spanish. As a result, even permitted systems are frequently installed with design deficiencies that present groundwater risks.



### APPROACH

This project will adapt appropriate existing materials and develop new materials which can provide detailed guidelines to owner-installed septic systems. The format will be conventional comic book style, with cartoon characters illustrating step-by-step procedure for properly designing and installing the system. English and Spanish versions of the comic book will be printed.

En Español, mi trabajo es muy bueno y mas seguro



### EVALUATION

On-site wastewater treatment regulations are currently under review in many Southwest states. The use of homeowner assistance materials will partly depend on the outcome of the regulations. The number of publications distributed, pertinent inquiries, and state agency permit applications for homeowner installs will be used for quantitative determination of program effectiveness.

### DELIVERY

Multi-state delivery of an on-site wastewater resource package will follow completion of the illustrated guide. A recently completed English/Spanish septic system video in DVD format, and guidelines for obtaining discharge permits will make up the package. State specific permit information will be addressed by using interchangeable state pages.

