

Environmental Health Registration Board

The **Oregon Environmental Health Registration Board** consists of seven members appointed by the governor: one physician licensed to practice medicine or surgery, four registered environmental health specialists, one representative of the food or food/alcohol beverage retail industry and one public member.

Terms of office are three years beginning July 1, with an appointee eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

OHLA

The **Oregon Health Licensing Agency** (OHLA) is a state department of licensing and regulation. OHLA is unique among Oregon's regulatory agencies — it oversees multiple professions under a central agency administration.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.oregon.gov/OHLA.

Consumer Protection

If you can't resolve a problem or issue with a practitioner or business, you may file a complaint.

Contact OHLA at **(503) 378-8667**, ext. 4314 or e-mail us at ohla.info@state.or.us. We respond to every complaint and have the authority to take disciplinary action against practitioners and businesses.

Consumer's Bill of Rights

Consumers receiving services by Oregon professionals licensed, certified or registered by the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) have a legal right to:

- ✦ Receive competent professional services
- ✦ Verify the names, titles and credentials of professionals providing services
- ✦ Receive clear explanations of the services offered and cost for the services
- ✦ Refuse any services offered
- ✦ Receive information on complaints that have resulted in final action
- ✦ File a complaint with OHLA regarding a practitioner, facility, or an unlicensed/uncertified person
- ✦ Request reasonable accommodations to access professional services as outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act
- ✦ Be treated with courtesy and respect
- ✦ Have service options and consequences explained

OREGON HEALTH LICENSING AGENCY
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Salem, OR 97301-1287
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503-373-2114 **TTY**
E-mail ohla.info@state.or.us
Web site www.oregon.gov/OHLA

Publication OHLA-22 (Rev 11/2006)

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS

Consumer Information



OREGON
HEALTH
LICENSING
AGENCY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Environmental Health

Hurricane Katrina. Ground Zero. West Nile Virus. These are high-profile examples of disasters or other threats in which environmental health professionals play a role in protecting public and environmental health.

In this wide-ranging and multi-faceted field, environmental health specialists also regularly inspect restaurants, public pools and waste water systems to prevent outbreaks of infectious disease and other public health or environmental problems.

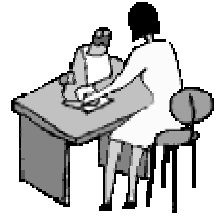
Education

An environmental health specialist must have at least a bachelor's degree with a minimum of 45 quarter hours of study in environmental sciences (or soil sciences for a waste water specialist). Applicants must also have worked under the supervision of a registered environmental health specialist for two years.

Environmental health specialists are also required to complete 20 contact hours of approved continuing education courses every two years to maintain their state registration.

Regulation

In Oregon, environmental health specialists and waste water specialists must be registered by OHLA to protect the public from unauthorized, unqualified or unprofessional practice. Environmental health specialists often work for public agencies such as county health departments and state agencies such as the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Oregon Department of Human Services, Health Services. The following are exempt from registration:

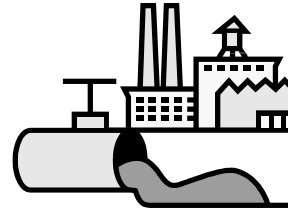


Profession Spans Wide Range of Activities

Environmental health specialists may do any of the following in the course of their work depending on their specific training, experience and professional focus:

- Enforce health and safety standards concerning food, including performing bacterial sampling and testing in restaurants, delis, food preparation areas and retail establishments
- Conduct routine inspections of establishments open to the public to ensure that health and safety standards are being met
- Investigate leaking underground storage tanks and oversee mitigation efforts for cleanup
- Monitor hazardous materials management, including handling, storage, transportation, and emergency response sampling and testing

- Conduct water quality sampling to ensure that drinking water supplies are potable and safe
- Monitor the use of pesticides and physical and chemical agents
- Perform inspections of public pools and recreational areas
- Prepare inspection reports and issue notices of violation and required remediation
- Issue citations to appear in court after identifying violations of environmental health and infection control laws
- Conduct surveys and recommend new or revised standards addressing environmental health issues



- Doctors of veterinary medicine
- Employees of the federal government performing their official capacities
- Academic researchers or instructors employed by a college or university
- Employees of DEQ (except for those who work in onsite waste water disposal programs)
- Sanitary engineers, public health engineers, registered professional engineers, meat inspectors, produce inspectors and bee inspectors

Did you know?

Registered in Oregon as of 11/15/06:

240 environmental health specialists
12 waste water specialists

Waste water specialists focus on waste water treatment, disposal and reuse where soil is used in the final stage of treatment.