

FAQ for Designers & Contractors

Hoot Aerobic Treatment Systems | California Installation Reference

SITE & EXCAVATION

Q: How big does the tank hole need to be?

The H-600 BNR tank (our most common residential system) measures 13'-6" L × 6' W × 6' H. The excavated and prepared hole should be at least 15'-6" L × 8' W with a smooth, level base. Hole depth varies based on the depth of the home's sewer outlet — verify required cover depth from the permitted plans before excavating.

Note: For H750, H1000, and 2-piece configurations, contact SOS for specific dimensions. Cut sheets for all configurations are available on the Contractors page at sosonsiteca.com.

Q: What should I use for bedding at the bottom of the hole?

Check local regulations before bedding. In most California counties a smooth, level, compacted native soil base is acceptable. Remove all sharp rocks and grade the base even before tank placement. If your county requires sand or pea-gravel bedding, coordinate with the local Environmental Health department for the approved method.

Q: How much does the Hoot H600 system weigh?

The H-600 BNR-Series reinforced concrete tank weighs approximately 20,000 lbs. SOS delivers with a truck-mounted crane. Prepare a level, clear approach with sufficient turning radius and overhead clearance — coordinate site access with SOS before delivery day.

Q: How long does a typical installation take?

Most Hoot installations take two full working days from tank set to system startup, assuming a straightforward dispersal field and electrical service already in place. Complex sites — tight access, unusual soil conditions, or large drip fields — may require additional time. Schedule the SOS startup visit after the tank is set and the dispersal field is installed, but before final backfill.

POWER & ELECTRICAL

Q: What are the electrical service requirements?

The Hoot system requires a dedicated 30-amp service (110V) with a disconnect box mounted within sight of the controller. Service must include Hot, Neutral, AND an independent Ground — a missing ground will cause operational problems. A licensed electrician brings service to the controller location; SOS makes final connections at the controller during the startup visit.

Note: SOS does not perform electrical work. Confirm service is in place before scheduling the SOS startup and sign-off visit.

Q: Does the NSF auto-dialer require a dedicated phone line?

No. The auto-dialer uses a standard telephone dial-up line extension and draws power from the Hoot controller (120 VAC). The contractor provides an RJ-11 jack at the dialer location; SOS handles all dialer wiring and programming during the startup visit.

Note: Projects with UV disinfection: UV alarm wires must be routed to dialer alarm pins 9 & 10. Confirm with SOS during planning.

Q: Does the controller have battery backup?

Yes. The Hoot controller includes a 9V rechargeable nickel metal hydride backup battery for power failure conditions. SOS installs and verifies the battery during the startup visit.

EQUIPMENT PLACEMENT

Q: Where can the controller, auto-dialer, and blower be mounted?

Discuss the right configuration for the site with SOS during planning. Common options:

- Remote mount on house — controller and blower on the residence wall; shortest conduit runs, easiest service access.
- Remote backboard mount — independent backboard near the tank when wall mounting isn't practical.
- Tank-top mount — controller and blower on a stand directly above the tank; common for remote or commercial sites.
- Under-deck or concealed variations — for sites with aesthetic or setback requirements.

In all configurations the blower must be within 4 feet of the controller, on the provided concrete pedestal under the provided concrete cover. Never enclose the blower in a sealed housing — it requires unobstructed airflow.

Q: How many risers can be stacked over each access port?

SOS recommends no more than four risers per port to preserve access to critical interior components. Actual number depends on finished grade relative to the top of the tank. Risers must extend a minimum of 2 inches above finished grade.

HEADWORKS & SYSTEM COMPONENTS

Q: Does the headworks box need to be assembled on-site?

No. The headworks box ships fully assembled and ready for pump installation. All PVC within the headworks box is 1½" — stock various reducers accordingly. The contractor installs the effluent pump in the pump chamber during plumbing rough-in; SOS completes final electrical connections during the startup visit.

Q: What are the sensor probe conduit requirements?

Maximum total run from tank to controller is 50 feet — no splicing of sensor wires. Route ½" PVC conduit in a straight, accessible path from the tank-top sensor location to the controller. The sensor hole must be clean and free of debris before SOS arrives. SOS installs and connects the probe during the startup visit.

Q: What sealing is required at conduit penetrations?

All conduit penetrations into the control panel AND all LBs and connectors at the tank-top MUST be filled with Silicone II (clear 100% silicone caulk). Failure to seal penetrations voids the warranty. SOS verifies all seals during the startup visit.

Note: Warranty requirement — not optional.

COMMON INSTALLATION MATERIALS

Stock the following before installation day. Verify quantities against the permitted plans and the specific system configuration.

PLUMBING & FITTINGS	ELECTRICAL & CONDUIT & WIRE
• PVC check valves — 1" or 1½" (3 per install; verify plans) • ABS two-way cleanouts — 3" or 4" (match home's sewer) • 4" to 3" ABS reducers • 4" ABS T's (all hub) • 1½" PVC: conduit, 90°s, 45°s, male/female adapters, couplers • PVC reducers: ¾" to ½"; 2" to 1½"; 1" to ½" • 2" couplings (various) • Silicone II — 100% silicone caulk (all penetrations) • Ramneck, concrete, grout & gravel as needed • Necessary primers and glues	• ½", ¾", 1" grey PVC electrical conduit — sweep 90°s, male/female adapters, couplers, LBs • ½" and ¾" flex conduit with 90° & straight connectors • RJ-11 blocks (auto-dialer phone connection) • 30-amp disconnect and appropriate fuses • H-frame backboard (tank-top mount configurations) Wire per installation: • CAT 5 #24 AWG 4-pair (phone/dialer) • #10 and #12 AWG: black, white, green • #14 AWG black

INSTALLATION SEQUENCE — OVERVIEW

Standard sequence for a residential Hoot drip system installation. For detailed step-by-step procedures refer to the SOS Supplemental Installer's Guide (sosonsiteca.com → Contractors).

1	Excavate, grade, and level tank hole. Prepare site access for delivery truck and crane.
2	Coordinate delivery with SOS. Inspect tank on arrival. Set tank in hole — confirm level within 1" from center to any corner.
3	Connect sewer inlet and sanitary tee in the Pretreatment Tank. Cap inlet and conduct watertight integrity test.
4	Partially backfill around tank. Install headworks riser. Bring all access ports to final grade (min. 2" above finished grade).
5	Install effluent pump in pump chamber and connect to headworks. Run electrical conduit from pump to controller location.
6	Install sensor probe conduit — clean, straight run from tank-top to controller (max 50 ft total, no splices).
7	Install aeration blower on concrete pedestal. Connect blower air line to tank and route liquid flex conduit to controller.
8	SCHEDULE SOS STARTUP VISIT — tank set, dispersal field installed, 30-amp electrical service in place. Do not final backfill until the SOS startup visit is complete.
9	SOS performs: tank-top connections, controller programming, system startup, alarm verification, county documentation.
10	Licensed contractor coordinates county Environmental Health final inspection. SOS attends if needed and provides all manufacturer documentation.

ROLES AT A GLANCE — SOS VS. LICENSED CONTRACTOR

SUPERIOR ON-SITE SOLUTIONS PERFORMS	LICENSED CONTRACTOR PERFORMS
• System sizing consultation & selection • Manufacturing the concrete tank in California • Delivery with truck-mounted crane • Tank-top connections (controller, blower, sensor, dialer) • System startup, testing & performance verification • Warranty registration with Hoot Aerobic Systems, Inc. • County inspection coordination & documentation • Ongoing O&M service for life of system	• Excavation of tank hole and dispersal field • Setting the tank in the prepared hole • 4" sewer line connections from residence to tank • Watertight integrity testing • Riser installation to final grade • All electrical between 30-amp service and controller • Dispersal field installation (drip tubing, trenching) • Surface restoration, backfilling, and seeding • Final coordination with county inspector

CONTACT SUPERIOR ON-SITE SOLUTIONS

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This document supplements but does not replace the current Hoot Aerobic Systems, Inc. Installer's Guide that ships with each system. For project-specific guidance, call Superior On-Site Solutions at 916-436-8457.