

Challenging Issues

Not all existing household sewage treatment systems are eligible to be permitted. OAC 3701-29-06 (I) reads in pertinent part "A STS (Sewage Treatment System) shall not be sited, permitted, or installed where a sanitary sewerage system is accessible, unless otherwise excepted by law". Homes with foundations within 200' of a public right-of-way containing sewer are required to connect to public sewer. Exemptions to rule are permitted to be granted by local boards of health,



but boards may not disregard the spirit and intent of the rule. They may consider local or state rules prohibiting or requiring connection to sewer, technical feasibility of connection,

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economic impact, and the ability of the sanitary sewerage system

to accept additional flows. Local health departments are not permitted to consider an exemption based on acceptable performance of an existing system. In cases where the rules have been challenged in court, Ohio courts have upheld the rules.

There are homes in Clark County that are accessible to public sewer. If public sewer is in an area, the only way to determine if a particular home is accessible to sewer is to perform an evaluation. In making these determinations, our staff must go onsite for an physical assessment and confer with the agencies that own the sewers.

How to Obtain an Operation Permit

With affordability in mind, The Board of Health of the Clark County Combined Health District has set the cost of a Household Sewage Treatment System operation permit at \$15.00. Permits are valid for 10 years and may be transferred to a new owner should a permitted property be sold. Applications for operation permits may be obtained at the CCCHD offices or on the Health District web site.

*Clark County
Combined
Health District*

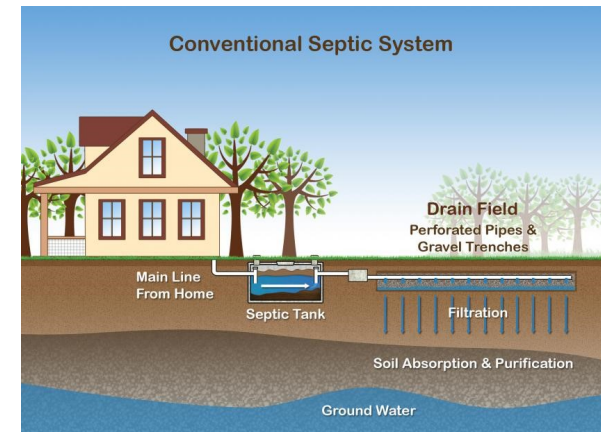
529 East Home Road
Springfield, OH 45503

Phone: 937-390-5600
Fax: 937-390-5625

E-mail: environmental@ccchd.com

Visit us on the web:
www.ccchd.com

What You Need To Know About Household Sewage Treatment System Operation Permits



*Clark County
Combined
Health District*

Division of Environmental Health

Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-29

Collaborative Effort

Effective treatment of sewage is essential for protection of our environment and drinking water. Rules governing the installation and safe operation of household sewage treatment systems varied widely across the state



Proper treatment of sewage is essential for assured safe water supply.

until the State of Ohio enacted uniform statewide rules. Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29 was prepared and approved with input from citizens, government representatives, academic studies, and sewage treatment industry representatives. The goal of

the rules is to assure that household sewage is effectively prevented from contaminating drinking water and the environment. Local health departments are required to implement the rules.

Assured Safe Operation

The first step to assure continued safe treatment of household sewage is to be aware of where septic systems are located. As a way to track locations, the State of Ohio requires that all household septic systems have an operation permit. OAC 3701-29-06 (B) reads in pertinent part "A STS (Sewage Treatment System) or GWRS (Gray Water Recycling System), as applicable, shall not be installed, altered, or operated without an approved permit from the board of health."



Operation permits require maintenance and inspection to assure safe operation.

The second step is to make sure that septic systems are inspected. Operation permits require that inspections be performed within appropriate time frames by a registered service provider or the health department. It is recommended that inspections are performed by a registered service provider as these companies can perform maintenance that may be deemed necessary at the time of the inspection.

In accordance with the permitting requirement, the CCCHD (Clark County



Most pre-existing household sewage treatment systems may be issued an operation permit.

Combined Health District) is issuing operation permits to all newly installed household septic systems

and is required to phase in the estimated 20,000+ pre-existing household sewage treatment systems. As there is no complete record detailing the locations and ownership of existing systems, the CCCHD is issuing operation permits to these systems as they are discovered through routine work such as response to nuisance complaints, building site approvals, and inspections requested on the behalf of buyers in real estate transactions.