

SEPTIC GAZETTE

Homeowner Information about the Basic System Assessment Program

Fix it
BEFORE
we assess it!



Tips for a passing Basic System Assessment

- ✓ Check all electrical components to be sure they are operating properly.
- ✓ Be sure there is a clear path to the end of your discharge pipe and the pipe is unobstructed.
- ✓ Inspect filters to be sure they are not clogged. Unclog if necessary.
- ✓ Fill low wet areas over your system with quality topsoil and reseed with grass.
- ✓ Be sure your system is not being overgrown with trees and shrubs

"How do I chose a pumper?"

This a question that is frequently asked by concerned homeowners. It is best to chose a pumper that has references for you to call or that someone you know and trust has recommended. Beware of pumpers that show up in your neighborhood going door to door. Also be aware that a pumper with a small truck may have to make two trips and charge per trip. If a pumper recommends repairs that have not been required by health district staff it is a good idea to discuss them with us to be sure the suggested repair will fix the problem. Always get at least three bids on repairs.

For more information visit our website:
clermonthhealthdistrict.org
or call the Health District at 732-7499

ACCEPTABLE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE DESIGNATION

The Health District is adding an exciting new designation to the Basic Systems Assessment (BSA) program, the Acceptable Operation and Maintenance (AO&M) designation. This designation is available to both residential and small flow commercial system operators and allows for the term of the operation permit to be doubled. A system operator that receives a pass on two consecutive assessments will be designated an AO&M operator and issued an operation permit that is in effect for twice as long as normal. An AO&M operator that maintains a system with mechanical components will be issued a 38 month permit and the operator that maintains a system without any mechanical components will be issued a 72 month permit. Due to the extended operation permit the next regularly scheduled assessment will be skipped and no fee generated. An operator will earn the AO&M designation when they meet the following conditions:

1. System must be found in good working order under the Health District's regular assessment criteria with no code violations cited for two consecutive assessments.
2. No sewage can be found reaching the surface of the ground.
3. Clear access to all components and discharge points must be maintained at all times.
4. All components must be working correctly and easily accessible with no heavy objects on the lids.
5. There can be no broken or missing lids.

Whenever a home changes owners the AO&M designation will be voided. Once the new operator meets the requirements outlined above the designation can be reinstated and the extended operation permit issued that is appropriate for the system type. If Health District staff are conducting a complaint investigation, accessory structure inspection, loan inspection, or are on site for any other reason and the system is found in a failing condition the AO&M designation will be voided and regular assessments conducted until the above conditions are met again. Systems in the Sewage Nuisance Abatement and Remediation Plan (SNARP) program are not eligible for this designation until the final system has been installed.

The Health District recognizes that most homeowners are responsible system operators and are taking the necessary steps to operate their onsite system in an acceptable manner. This new AO&M designation is one way to acknowledge your consistent efforts.

Tank Size (gallons)	SEPTIC TANK PUMPING GUIDANCE									
	Number of People in Home									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Years between pumping:									
500	5.8	2.6	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	--
750	9.1	4.2	2.6	1.8	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3
1000	12.4	5.9	3.7	2.6	2.0	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.7
1250	15.6	7.5	4.8	3.4	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.0
1500	18.9	9.1	5.9	4.2	3.3	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.3
1750	22.1	10.7	6.9	5.0	3.9	3.1	2.6	2.2	1.9	1.6
2000	25.4	12.4	8.0	5.9	4.5	3.7	3.1	2.6	2.2	2.0
2250	28.6	14.0	9.1	6.7	5.2	4.2	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.3
2500	31.9	15.6	10.2	7.5	5.9	4.8	4.0	4.0	3.0	2.6

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Basic System Assessments (BSA's) of household sewage treatment systems

The BSA scheduling process.

Due to the large number of systems to assess in some townships, Health District staff may be in your township longer than one month. This means that your assessment can be right on time, one month later than expected or even one month early. As time passes your assessment will average the normal 19 month or 38 month interval for each cycle. To check when we will be in your township, the BSA schedule through 2016 can be found on our web site.

Water Usage Tips:

- ✓ Don't leave water running when you do dishes or brush your teeth
- ✓ Spread laundry throughout the week rather than doing all loads on one day
- ✓ Install low flow showerheads and toilet fixtures
- ✓ Take shorter showers or baths with less water

