

SEPTIC GAZETTE

Homeowner Information for Septic Systems Requiring Service Providers

You can find information about onsite systems on our website:

clermonthelthdistrict.org

or by calling the Health District at 732-7499.

Discharging Systems

If your advanced technology system discharges and was installed after January 1, 2007, it is covered by Ohio EPA's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit OHK000001 in addition to your local permits. One of the requirements of the NPDES permit is that the effluent discharging from those systems be sampled and tested once annually. Be sure to contact your service provider and confirm that they are going to provide this service for you. If the Health District has not received your sample results by September 1, 2010, a sample will be collected and you will be billed \$175.00 for the service. The Health District strongly encourages you to utilize your service provider if at all possible.

"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.

If you are receiving this issue of the Septic Gazette your Household Sewage Treatment System (HSTS) is an advanced technology system which uses timed dosing for its operation. All advanced technology systems installed after April 1, 2003 are required to have a service contract for operation and maintenance of the system. The contract must be maintained with an approved service provider for as long as that system is in operation. Contracts are required to be for at least one year but longer contracts are of course acceptable. The reason the Health District requires coverage under a Service Provider maintenance contract is because these systems are complex and without specific training on the operation and maintenance needs for the system it is hard for a homeowner to know how to care for them.

Advanced technology systems installed prior to April 1, 2003 are not required to have a contract with a service provider, however the Health District still highly recommends obtaining one. No matter if your system is covered or not you should have a working knowledge of how your system operates. Meet with your service provider at one of their inspections and have them discuss the operation and maintenance needs of your system. At a minimum you should be able to silence alarms and check pumps for proper operation. The more you know about your system the greater the value you can get from your service provider, because you will understand their service recommendations and why they are making those recommendations.

If you feel that you are not getting very good service for your money then you should choose someone else from the Service Provider list and sign a maintenance contract with them. The Health District is consulting with the county prosecutor on how to handle homeowners that are not renewing their contracts and thus voiding their advanced technology variance. Until that process gets worked out all homeowners that do not have a contract can expect to be assessed on our normal 19 month rotation. Additionally any system not covered by a contract will be held strictly to all codes. No exceptions, no extensions, and no fees waived.

Homeowner Mound Training

Mound training is being offered by the Health District again in 2010. If you have a Wisconsin or Millennium mound for your sewage treatment system, the Health District is offering training on the operation and maintenance of these non-proprietary systems. Once the homeowner has completed the class they can be their own service provider. The class cost \$75 per household and anyone who will have to take care of the system is encouraged to attend. Cost includes a certificate for all attendees, handout materials, and a one on one visit at your home to go over the system. For information on the date and time of the next meeting please contact Missy Jones at 732-7495.

Clermont County General Health District



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

**Minimizing your water usage and changing your use patterns
can have a HUGE impact on your Septic System**

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

