



Application, Permitting, Installation and Operation of Household Sewage Treatment Systems for *EXISTING* Homes in Van Wert County

Preliminary Evaluation

The purpose of the preliminary evaluation is two-fold. First, a member of the Health Department staff must determine whether installation of an entire new sewage treatment system is necessary, or whether the failure or malfunction can be eliminated by replacing one or more components of the existing system. Replacement of one or more components of a system is done under an alteration permit.

In order to be eligible for an alteration, a sewage treatment must consist not only of a septic tank, but must also include one or more additional components that provide additional treatment of the wastewater, such as a leaching tile field or sub-surface sand filter. For example, a collapsed septic tank that is located prior to a working sub-surface sand filter may be replaced with a new tank as part of the existing system, whereas a collapsed septic tank that discharges septic tank effluent to surface water must be replaced with an entirely new system that complies with current code.

In a sewage treatment system replacement situation, an evaluation must first be made to determine whether there is enough room on the property to accommodate the installation of a soil absorption system. If the property has enough available area to accommodate such a system, then a site and soil evaluation must be performed on the property to determine whether the soil has the right properties to allow such a system to work. If sufficient space is not available, the site and soil evaluation is not required, and the homeowner may proceed to the design phase in preparation for installation of a system that will treat the home's wastewater to a high level before discharging it to surface water.

Site and Soil Evaluation

Unless determined unnecessary by a preliminary evaluation, a qualified site and soil evaluator must conduct an evaluation of the site to provide the information necessary to determine the type and size of system that will be necessary to adequately treat household sewage on the site. The Van Wert County Health Department does not provide this service, but maintains a list of individuals who perform site and soil evaluations in Van Wert County.

System Design

A system design plan or layout plan must be provided for review by the Health Department. This is a detailed plan showing how adequate sewage treatment will be achieved in the soil conditions present on the property. The Van Wert County Health Department does not provide this service, but can refer those needing this service to individuals who provide household sewage treatment system design services in Van Wert County. Many registered sewage treatment system installers provide this service.

Permitting

Before an installation permit can be issued, a site review must be conducted by the Health Department. A completed *Application for Household Sewage Treatment System Site Review* must be submitted, along with all required information, before the site review can be completed. The site review will generally be completed within 10 days of application. A permit can be issued any time within one year after approval of the site review application.

Installation

Installation may begin under favorable soil moisture conditions at any time after an installation permit has been issued by the Van Wert County Health Department. The system must be installed by an installer who is registered with the Van Wert County Health Department, except in the case that a homeowner elects to perform the installation of a system serving his or her primary residence. A homeowner intending to install his or her own system must provide the Health Department with evidence that he or she possesses the skills necessary to complete the task in compliance with all rules and regulations. Installation must be completed within one year of the date on which the permit is issued, unless the homeowner has applied for and received a six-month extension from the Health Department.

Final Inspection

The newly-installed system must be inspected by the Van Wert County Health Department before any part of the system is covered or put into use. An as-built record must be completed and provided to the Health Department before the system can be approved.

Operation

When the system has been installed and inspected, an operation permit will be issued by the Van Wert County Health Department. The system must be operated and maintained in accordance with all provisions of the operating permit. For some of the more complex and mechanically oriented systems in use today, this may require an annual service contract with a qualified service provider.

Permit Fees

Ohio Law provides local health departments with the ability to charge permit fees to offset the costs incurred in implementing the household sewage treatment program. The following fees apply to the household sewage treatment system permitting and installation process.

Household Sewage Treatment System Site Review Fee	\$200.00
Household Sewage Treatment System Installation Permit Fee	\$304.00
Household Sewage Treatment System Alteration Permit Fee	\$120.00
Household Sewage Treatment System Operation Permit Fee	\$45.00

For More Information

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