

# Septic System Reminders

It is important to have your septic tank pumped out every 3-5 years depending on how many people live in the home.

- DON'T pour cooking oil or grease down the sink
- DON'T pour household chemicals down the sink or flush them
- DON'T park or drive on your drain field
- DON'T plant trees or shrubs too close to your drain field as roots can grow into your system and clog it
- DO Dispose of dental floss, paper towels, and coffee grounds in the trash can
- DO stagger the use of water-generating appliances
- DO become water efficient and fix plumbing leaks
- DO limit garbage disposal use
- DO use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, biodegradable, and low or phosphate-free

## HSTS Operation & Maintenance Program

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*Van Wert County*  
*General Health District*

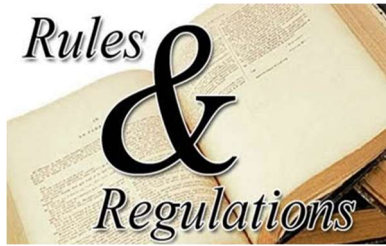
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## Ohio Law & Regulations

- In 2015, new guidance was implemented requiring health departments to establish an operation and maintenance permitting program for sewage treatment systems. The purpose of the revision is to ensure that systems are being maintained properly, not causing a public health nuisance and help educate home owners.
- Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29-19
- Ohio Revised Code 3718.02 (A)(7)

## Importance

- This is a state mandated program that has not been implemented or enforced in Van Wert County until this year
- Different types of systems require specialized maintenance that may get neglected by homeowners
- Neglecting maintenance of these systems can cause them to fail sooner, causing a public health nuisance and possibly contaminate ground water

### Who?

- Every septic system in Van Wert County will be entered into the state mandated program

### What?

- The purpose of the program is to educate home owners on what type of sewage treatment system they have on their property and what maintenance should be done to maintain it.
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### When?

- Letters and applications are mailed at the beginning of the year and evaluations will be completed throughout the year when the ground is not frozen or saturated

### Why?

- In 2015, the Ohio Department of Health updated rules concerning the operation and maintenance of household sewage treatment systems. All counties are required to have an O&M permitting program in place for all household sewage treatment systems.

## Permit Application Process

- Homeowners will receive their first letter in the mail explaining the permit requirements and the required fee of \$50 every 5 years.
- Homeowners will choose between three options to satisfy the evaluation requirements
  - ▶ Have a registered service provider complete the evaluation
  - ▶ Submit proof of maintenance within the past 1-2 years
  - ▶ Request a sanitarian complete the evaluation

