



O&M Program

WHO:

- All households in the state of Ohio with private sewage treatment systems
- If the house is not connected to city sewer or a public sewage treatment system, it will be part of the O&M program

WHAT:

- The purpose of the O&M program is to educate homeowners on the type of septic system and how to properly maintain that system to prevent health hazards and system failure. The program allows homeowners the option to have an evaluation of their system completed or have maintenance (such as pumping) done on their system. The program will also help to determine the types of systems that are in use and to ensure they are functioning properly

WHERE:

- **ALL** household sewage treatment systems county wide will be a part of the state mandated O&M program
- Because of the large number of homes in the county, each year additional properties will be added into the O&M program and it may take as long as five years to bring all households into the program

WHEN:

- The program was started in June of 2021. The first letters and applications were mailed to property owners who had installed or altered their septic system since 2010.
- Each year, additional properties will be added into the program
- Permits will need to be renewed every 5 years
- If requested, evaluations will be completed throughout the year when the ground is not frozen or saturated

WHY:

- This program is mandated by the state of Ohio and regulations passed in 2015 by the Ohio Department of Health. All counties are required to have an O&M permitting program in place for all household sewage treatment systems

TIMELINE:

- Letters and applications to be sent out January of every year for enrollment and renewals
- Evaluations to be completed when the weather allows, after receiving the application and payment



Questions

What if I sell my property?

- The O&M permit will transfer to the new homeowner.
 - If the permit is issued in 2022 and the property sells in 2023, the new owner will be required to renew the permit in 2027.

Will I be required to update my system?

- The program is NOT intended to require replacement of old systems. If the system is not causing a public health nuisance, the system can remain in operation and be permitted.

What does the permit fee cover?

- The permit fee is \$50 (\$10 for each year of operation) and covers the administration and enforcement of the program as well as educational materials for the homeowners.
- Regardless of the option chosen on the application, the application and fee must be returned to our department.

What happens if I do not complete the required maintenance?

- Not completing the maintenance will shorten the life of the system and cause other plumbing issues.

How do I know when to have my septic tank pumped?

- A septic tank should be pumped every 3-5 years depending on the size of tank and how many people live in the home
- If you just moved into the home or do not know the last time it was pumped, the health department can tell you the last time a pumping report was received.

Why do I need an O&M permit? I've never needed one in the past.

- The program was newly mandated by the state in 2015. These permits are required by the Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-29. This program ensures that systems are being maintained properly, not causing a public health nuisance, and homeowner education can help extend the system to its full lifespan.

How will I know the maintenance required for my system?

- Recommended maintenance for your system will be explained on the evaluation form and mailed to you with the permit.

Who can complete the required maintenance?

- A courtesy listing of registered service providers can be found on our website. Any of the providers on this list may be used.



1179 Westwood Drive, Suite 300
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Van Wert County
General Health District

419-238-0808 Fax 419-238-9571
www.vanwertcountyhealth.org

What do other counties charge?

- Defiance- \$60 every 4 years
- Ottawa-\$75 every 1 or 4 years
- Mercer-\$40 renewal
- Wood-\$150 every 5 years
- Hancock-\$50 every 5 years
- Seneca-\$175 every 5 years
- Lake-\$40 every year or \$100 every 5 years



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Application for Household Sewage Treatment System Operational Permit

Instructions:

Complete application for each STS

1. Make check or money order for **\$50.00** payable to: **VWCGHD**
2. Return application with payment to:
Van Wert County General Health Department
1179 Westwood Drive, Suite 300,
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Office use:
Fee paid _____
Paid date _____

Applicant Name:		Phone:	
Property address:		City/Zip:	
Mailing address:		City/Zip:	
Last time tank was pumped:	Are the tank lids visible from the ground surface? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	Township:	Email:

Evaluation Method (Please check your preferred method)

- Option 1: I will choose a registered service provider from the list provided to evaluate and pump/maintain my household sewage treatment system and provide documentation to VWCGHD within 30 days of the service date.
- Option 2: I have had my system pumped in the past 1-2 years and I will submit written documentation to VWCGHD. Written proof can be in the form of a pumping report filled out by the registered service provider or a statement from the service provider stating what work was completed.
- Option 3: I prefer to have a sanitarian from VWCGHD complete the evaluation at the property (please choose an option below)
 - VWCGHD can complete the evaluation at their convenience and send me the evaluation documents
 - I would like VWCGHD to call and schedule a time with me for the evaluation

This assessment is mandated by section 3718.02(6) of the Ohio Revised Code and section 3701-29-09(H) of the Ohio Administrative code.

Property Owner Name	Signature	Date
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