



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Greene County



Greene County Public Health

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

My sewage treatment system is malfunctioning. What should I do?

It's important that you contact the Health District immediately. Consulting with the Health District first, can *save* you thousands of dollars in repairs. Too often, unregistered and unscrupulous contractors perform ill-informed or dishonest "repair work" that must be fixed just a few months later. The experience and expertise that the Health District offers is well worth the time it takes to consult with them.

Does the Health District have a record of my existing sewage system?

Probably. The Health District offices contain records of most sewage treatment systems dating back to around the 1950's. Records may be filed under the original owner's last name since some records do not have a house number. Having as much info as possible about an older property increases the chances of finding the relevant records. The Health District recently digitized the entire sewage system records archive and may be able to provide a .pdf of your record by email. Contact us at 937-374-5607 or ehpermits@gcph.info to make a request.

I've purchased a vacant lot in Greene County that does not have access to city sewer. Where do I begin in designing an onsite sewage treatment system?

The first step for onsite sewage systems is a soil evaluation by a soil scientist. Once the soil evaluation is completed, a sewage system designer will take that information and create design. This design and soil evaluation is reviewed by the Health District. If everything meets the standards of the Ohio Sewage Rules, a conditional letter of approval is issued to you. This design approval is good for five (5) years.

Can you recommend a good sewage system installer?

Every year the Health District maintains a list of registered sewage system installers who meet the requirements of the Ohio Sewage Rules. Every installer must pass an initial exam on the Sewage Rules. Additionally, each installer is bonded and insured. They also must obtain Continuing Education credits to register each year. Greene County Public Health maintains a regularly-updated list of registered installers. See our website or contact the District directly to obtain a copy.

As a homeowner, may I work on my own sewage treatment system?

Yes. However, the Sewage Rules require specific things of homeowners before they begin work on their system. A homeowner must pass an open-book test, and purchase a bond covering the cost of the repairs or installation. Contact the Health District at 937-374-5607 or ehpermits@gcph.info for more information.

I'm buying or selling a property with an existing sewage system and need it to be inspected. Does the Health District offer this service?

Yes. The Health District will inspect existing household sewage treatment systems when requested. There is a fee charged for the inspection and evaluation. Please submit the Sewage Certification Evaluation form located on the private sewage systems page. Contact the Health District for current fees and more information.

I'm splitting off or creating a new lot. What must I do?

Check with your city/township Zoning Department to determine the proper lot size and road frontage requirements. Next, contact Greene County Regional Planning Commission (937-562-7480) to determine if their approval is required. A registered surveyor will be needed to draft a new survey of the proposed lot. Once the survey paperwork and is finished, complete the Lot Split Evaluation application. Finally, submit the application, a copy of the Mylar (survey) and the Lot Split review fee to the Health District. The District will reply with either a letter or approval or denial justifying their decision.

I was recently sent a letter from the Health District indicating that my sewage system was enrolled in the Operation & Maintenance Program. What is this program, and how much does it cost?

Beginning in 2015, the Ohio Legislature enacted rules requiring every onsite sewage system in the state to be eventually enrolled in an Operation & Maintenance Program. This program is the result of a statewide survey that found 1-in-3 onsite sewage systems was failing. The Sewage Rules allow each Health District to administer their own program. Greene County Health District has been gradually enrolling more systems each year to comply with this law.

Generally speaking, our Operation and Maintenance Program requires an inspection of the onsite sewage system every five (5) or ten (10) years, depending on the design of the system. The inspection can be performed by the Health District, a registered Service Provider, or the homeowner (restrictions apply). Additionally, an Operation Permit must be purchased at the beginning of each cycle. This fee covers the entire period of the permit cycle. It is NOT due every year of the cycle.