Operation & Maintenance Program for Household Sewage Treatment Systems

The Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Program was designed to protect water resources essential to the health of Trumbull County residents by eliminating pollution and the spread of disease caused by raw sewage. The program is crucial to assuring that Home Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS) are functioning properly which decreases the raw sewage found in the environment. By reducing waterborne diseases, it benefits everyone and makes for a safer environment for all citizens of Trumbull County.

All HSTS that are inspected/evaluated by the Trumbull County Combined Health District (TCCHD), whether for real estate inspections, sewage nuisance complaints, or additions, are eventually placed on the O&M Program.

Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3701-29 requires all HSTS be permitted under the O&M Program. The Permit to Operate (PTO), is issued and depending on the PTO Level (see below), may require further review by the TCCHD

The TCCHD educates all interested homeowners in the proper use and operation of their septic system. Many homeowners appreciate this since there is misinformation from uninformed sources being circulated.

HSTS PTO Levels

Level 1 - Non discharging, soil-based HSTS with no mechanical treatment components. O&M PTO renewed every three (3) years.

Level 2 - Non discharging soil-based HSTS with some mechanical components. Service contract is required. The service provider will perform routine maintenance on the HSTS to improve the life of the HSTS. The O&M PTO is renewed every three (3) years.

Level 3 - Discharging HSTS installed prior to 1/1/2007 that is completely mechanical. Service contract is required. The service provider will perform routine maintenance on the HSTS to improve the life of the HSTS. Yearly effluent sampling by the TCCHD is required. The effluent sample is tested by a lab for Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and fecal matter/E. coli. The O&M PTO is renewed yearly.

Level 4 – Discharging HSTS installed after 1/1/2007 that is completely mechanical and require an NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit from the Ohio EPA. Service contract is required. The service provider will perform routine maintenance on the HSTS to improve the life of the HSTS. Yearly effluent sampling by the TCCHD is required. The effluent sample is tested for Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Ammonia (NH4), Dissolved Oxygen (DO), and fecal matter/E. coli. The O&M PTO is renewed yearly.

Level 5 – Failing HSTS that is located in an area that a sanitary sewer project is imminent. The Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer's Office makes the decision on when/where Sanitary Sewers will be installed. If the sewer project is cancelled, then the failing HSTS will need to be replaced. The homeowner must submit a pumping receipt on the designated Ohio Department of Health form. The TCCHD performs a site visit which includes looking for safety issues and/or component(s) that are not operating properly as well as a file review for current pumping form. The O&M PTO is renewed yearly.