



Cambridge Guernsey County Health Department
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OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-29 (<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-29>)
Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 3718 (<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3718>)
Operation and Maintenance of your sewage treatment system:

WHY WAS THIS PROGRAM STARTED?

As of January 1, 2015, local health departments are required to develop a program for the management of the operation and maintenance of Sewage Treatment Systems (STS), including Gray Water Recycling Systems. Operation Permits, increased homeowner education, and routine STS maintenance are a requirement of the program. Owning an STS is a big financial investment in your property. Proper operation and maintenance of your system is important to ensure it operates effectively and efficiently for many years and does not create nuisance conditions or pollute the environment.

WHO IS AFFECTED BY THIS PROGRAM?

All properties with an STS installed after January 1, 2015, are now affected by this program. Existing properties installed prior to January 1, 2015, were issued an installation permit, which included an operation permit without defined expiration. If an existing system installed prior to January 1, 2015, is found not operating properly, the owner may have their existing operation permit revoked and be issued a new operation permit under the new operational program requirements.

WHAT IS THE COST TO HOMEOWNERS?

The fees and length of time the Operation Permit is good for varies among health departments. Our current renewal fee is \$0.00, and the operation permit renewal is issued based on type of STS you have. Permit applications are mailed out prior to the expiration date and go directly to the property utilizing the STS, unless otherwise instructed by the property owner. These requirements are mandated by the Ohio Department of Health, meanwhile Ohio Department of Health does not give funding to our department for these requirements and tracking.

WHAT ARE THE MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS ON MY STS?

Proof of STS operation and maintenance is a new requirement and can be demonstrated through having a service contract with a registered service provider. Service maintenance reports must be submitted to us by the provider. This information is entered into a database for tracking purposes. As we develop our program, information will be available for reviewing septic tank cleaning dates and other STS maintenance.

WHAT IS OUR AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT THIS PROGRAM?

Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 3718

Ohio Administrative Code, Chapter 3701-29

WHAT DO I NEED TO MAKE SURE MY OPERATION PERMIT WILL BE RENEWED FOR A NPDES AERATION STS?

Operate the STS under an appropriate Operation and Maintenance Service Contract from a manufacturer trained/certified service provider that is registered with Cambridge-Guernsey County Health Department. Proper operation and maintenance of your system is important to make sure it effectively works and efficiently for many years and does not create nuisance conditions or contaminate water resources. Our office, or STS installer can help you find a registered service provider in your area. Maintain a copy of the service contract with your important household records.

Have **annual diagnostic sampling** performed to evaluate performance of the STS. This sampling can be completed by the service provider as part of the operations and maintenance service contract or through the local health district, but Cambridge-Guernsey County Health district does not provide this sampling service. The purpose of the sampling is to make sure the system is working properly and to help manage operation. It is the Homeowner's responsibility to make sure that a sample is collected and reported to our office. Samples must be collected and tested for:

- Total Suspended Solids (TSS)
- Ammonia
- Five-Day Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (CBOD5)
- Dissolved Oxygen (DO)
- E. coli
- Chlorine (if Applicable), for example if utilizing UV Light Disinfection, chlorine test not applicable

PERMIT RENEWAL (https://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/permits/GP_HouseholdSewageTreatmentPlants) – By federal law NPDES permits can only be issued in five-year increments and must be renewed to continue coverage through the OEPA. The Operation Permit from Cambridge-Guernsey County Health Department is a separate permit that must also be renewed at the specified interval.

Permit Transfer (https://www.epa.ohio.gov/dsw/permits/GP_HouseholdSewageTreatmentPlants) - If your property changes ownership, you must submit a General Permit Coverage Transfer form to Ohio EPA.

Additional information on this program, or your individual STS, can be obtained by contacting us at 740-439-3577.

If you have a loved one, friend or neighbor who needs our help and service, please contact us. We can help!

Sincerely,

Ryan Murphy, REHS, RS
Director of Environmental Health