

Medina County Health Department

New Sewage Treatment System Rules

Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29

FAQ's Sheet

Frequently asked questions concerning new Home Sewage Treatment System rules, Chapter 3701-29 of the Ohio Administrative Code which took effect January 1, 2007.

Q: *I want to review the January 1, 2007, new sewage treatment system code. Where can I get a copy?*

A: The new code can be viewed at the following web site address:
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/rules/final/f3701-29.aspx>. Also, our office can furnish a paper or CD copy of the code upon request.

Q: *I had a site evaluation done prior to January 1, 2007, on my lot for an initial construction/replacement of my sewage system and I was given different options of system types. Are those options still valid?*

A: All lots which had site evaluations completed by this office prior to January 1, 2007, are still eligible to install the options given on those site evaluations until January 1, 2010. If a permit is obtained by that date, the permit is valid for one year, and the system can be installed up until January 1, 2011.

Q: *I would like to buy a lot in Medina County. What should I know about that lot before I make a purchase?*

A: First, you should inquire if sanitary sewerage is available. If sanitary sewerage is not available, then a private sewage treatment system is required to build on the lot. A site and soil evaluation should be completed before the lot is purchased, because there may be conditions (such as: adverse soil conditions, dangerous slopes, bedrock, etc.) which would not allow the installation of an on-lot sewage system. After a site and soil evaluation is completed for the lot, the Health Department will issue a notice stating that the lot is suitable for an on-lot sewage system (that is, acceptable to install a sewage system).

Q: *What does a site and soil evaluation entail?*

*A: The Health Department can assist a landowner in locating a soils professional who will be able to properly identify and profile the soil on the property. A soils professional will dig a series of at least two test holes on the property, identifying the soil structure so that the sewage system can be properly sized for the home to be built (or for the existing home in the case of a replacement). A plot map, drawn to scale, of the lot will be made showing any existing or proposed buildings, driveways, lakes or ponds, etc. After receiving this paperwork, the Health Department will visit the site to make sure an appropriate area exists for installation of a sewage system. After this inspection, the lot may be approved for the installation of an on-lot sewage treatment system.

Q: Where is the best place to find a soil scientist to perform a Site/Soil Evaluation for my lot?

A: If you have access to the internet, some helpful websites are:

www.ohiopedologist.org

www.septiclocator.com

Q: After having my Site/Soil Evaluation approved by the Health Department, how do I get my permits to start construction of my home?

A: After completing the Site/Soil Evaluation process, the homeowner must hire a sewage system designer to design the sewage system to fit their lot; this is called the Design Plan. A sewage system installer may produce a Layout Plan for leach tile fields and mounded leaching systems, as long as the system does not utilize a soil depth credit for pathogen reduction. Sewage system designers can be found on the website www.septiclocator.com or through your sewage system installer. After the Layout Plan/Design Plan has been approved by the Health Department, building permits may be obtained.

Q: The only option I was given for replacement of my sewage system is an off-lot or discharging system. What is necessary under the January 1, 2007, code change, to have a system installed?

A: To obtain a permit for a discharging sewage system in Medina County after January 1, 2007, a homeowner must apply directly to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The process starts by completing EPA form 4494, also known as a Notice of Intent (NOI). We will provide as much guidance as possible concerning the correct completion of this form. In addition the OEPA requires a check or money order in the amount of \$200.00 (made out to *The Treasurer, State of Ohio*). The NOI and the check must be submitted to the Health Department, and we will forward them to the OEPA.

Once the NPDES permit is granted, a registered sewage system installer may be contacted in order to obtain a permit for a private sewage system installation.

Additional information is available concerning the NPDES permit requirements from the following web link: http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/permits/GP_HouseholdSewageTreatmentPlants.html

Q: Where can I get an NOI?

A: An NOI, in addition to information regarding tips on its completion, can be downloaded from the following web link: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/storm/stormform.html>. Also, you can contact this office and one can be sent out, or a copy may be available for pickup.

Q: Will I need to get an NPDES permit from the OEPA for my existing discharging or off-lot sewage system?

A: All existing sewage systems permitted to be installed prior to January 1, 2007, at this time, are not required to apply for an NPDES permit, unless a replacement system must be a discharging system.

Q: *What sewage systems installed after January 1, 2007, will require a service contract?*

A: Ohio Administrative Code Paragraph 3701-29-09(C)(5) states that the following system types require an annual service contract:

1. Any sewage system that requires a NPDES permit, or in other words, an off-lot or discharging sewage treatment system.
2. Any sewage system that utilizes a pretreatment component or components permitted for BOD₅/TSS sizing reduction, pathogen reduction soil depth credit, and nutrient reduction.
3. Any sewage treatment system installed under the countywide, OAC Rule 3701-29-13(D)(1) variance, which uses sand fill for receiving a soil depth credit, time dosing, and minimized dose volumes.
4. Any drip disposal systems.

Q: *Will I be required to have a service contract for my existing sewage system?*

A: As of this date, homeowners with systems installed prior to January 1, 2007, will not be required to have a service contract for their sewage system.

Q: *What do I need to know about service contracts?*

A: Service providers must comply with OAC Rule 3701-29-04.3, which specifies that service providers show proof of training to service your particular type of sewage system, when required. This office can be contacted to receive an updated list of registered service providers.



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