

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
BELMONT COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH  
DISTRICT**



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**PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW WHEN AN EVALUATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL  
SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM IS REQUESTED**

To: Applicants requesting water and sewage evaluations

From: Belmont County Health Department

Environmental Health Section

Re: Procedures in conducting evaluations of sewage disposal systems

The Belmont County Health Department offers a service by evaluating home sewage treatment systems to determine compliance with applicable laws, rules, and sanitary standards. Evaluations are to be requested by an owner, buyer, or agent in the purchase or sale of the residence or facility. The appropriate sections of the application form supplied by the health department must be completed in entirety. These evaluations are offered as a service and are not required by law.

Depending upon the availability of the Sanitarian and the time involved in performing the necessary research of the system, the initial inspection may take up to 10 working days, which will require the owner or their representative to be present at that time.

Fees for the evaluation have to be paid in full before the report will be released.

It is the policy of this office to make a copy of the evaluation available to the owner, the purchaser, realtor, and the lender if requested. Sanitarians of this office will only conduct the necessary evaluations with the consent and cooperation of the owner or occupant of the residence or facility.

Our office will not perform sewage treatment system evaluation on a **vacant residence**, unless the system has an aeration system with discharge and the power and water is on at the time of the inspection. Aeration system may not have any leaching system to conduct an inspection on a vacant property. Before evaluation of a sewage system can occur, the residence must have been occupied on a daily basis for the past 40 days, if the sewage system tank has been pumped prior to the evaluation and not used the residence must be occupied on a daily basis for 50 days to allow additional days for tank components to fill. An evaluation of the sewage system may require specific requests for information, the opening of the top of the septic tank, the introduction of tracing dye into the system and several on-site visits by the Sanitarian to confirm the

operation of the system. Adequate quantities of water must be provided at the residence or facility to properly assess the ability of the system to handle reasonable design flows.

After the dye testing and follow up inspections of the sewage system, the pumping and cleaning of the septic tank by a certified septic tank pumper must be performed to make sure tank(s) are adequately sized for the usage and components are in satisfactory condition. The Belmont County Health Department will accept a satisfactory pumpers report for the residence if performed in the last 12 months. The owner or an authorized representative is expected to be on the premises during the initial dye testing procedure. The cleaning of the tank shall not to be performed immediately prior to the evaluation.

If the sewage system utilizes a home aeration unit, the unit usually is to be serviced as needed within the conditions and warranties of an acceptable service contractor for the model being utilized. Depending on the year installed, home aeration units with a surface discharge are required to have a current NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) registration from the Ohio EPA. The status of the registration will be verified with the Ohio EPA and once the property transfers to the new owner, a transfer of ownership shall be filled out and sent into the Ohio EPA. Further information will be provided for residences utilizing home aeration system that are covered under the NPDES requirements.

The evaluation report will present the findings of what was discovered through reasonable efforts by the Sanitarian to determine the acceptable design and operation of the sewage system on the day or days on which the evaluation was conducted. A favorable evaluation cannot be used as an assurance that the system or systems can be expected to function satisfactorily in the future. Various factors, such as the normal deterioration of the system, increased water use, weather conditions and physical damage can affect the function of such systems.

If major alteration or replacement to the sewer system is necessary, such work requires the employment of a Belmont County Health Department registered sewage system installer. A permit will be required prior to any alteration or replacement in most circumstances and may need to conduct a soil evaluation and design prior to issuing the permit. Contact the Belmont County Health Department for a listing of registered sewage installers, soil professionals, and/or designers if needed.