



LICKING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Sewage Treatment System Operation and Maintenance Program Factsheet (updated 11.2015)

Program Background

After a long planning process with input from a wide variety of stakeholders from across Ohio, new Statewide Sewage Treatment Regulations went into effect on January 1, 2015. The system design parameters in the new regulations are almost exactly the same as what the Licking County Health Department (LCHD) adopted in 2007. However, there are significant changes in the regulations regarding the mandated adoption of an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program by local health departments. While many counties have had some type of an O&M program in place for years, this will be new in Licking County.

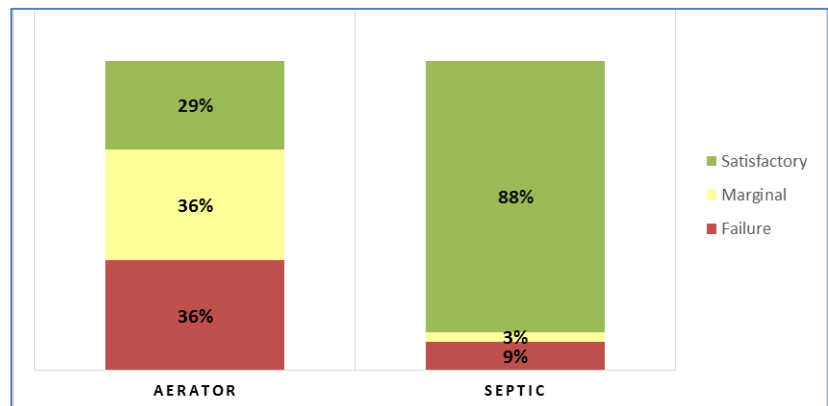
The goal of an O&M program is to assure that sewage treatment systems, once installed, are properly maintained and operated for the life of the system. This will reduce the health risks associated with inadequately treated wastewater discharging to the surface of the ground or to our waterways. This will also reduce contaminants discharging to our lakes and rivers that cause beach closures and algal blooms.

System Inspections

Any system installed or altered after January 1, 2015, is required to be entered into the program. This is also the case for systems that are inspected as part of a real estate transfer, public health nuisance investigation, and any other time a system is inspected. Eventually, all of the systems in the county are required to be entered into an O&M program; however LCHD is afforded flexibility in establishing a timeline. Current estimates are 20 years to incorporate all existing systems into the O&M program. During 2015-16 LCHD will focus on areas with a history of sewage treatment system failures. These are primarily older subdivisions with small lots and where many of the homes discharge their treated wastewater to collector tiles, ditches or storm drains in the area.

System Inspection Frequency

Once a sewage treatment system is enrolled in the O&M program, and inspection by a registered Service Provider, a LCHD inspector, or the properly trained homeowner will be required to document that the system is working properly. Systems utilizing an Aeration Treatment Unit (ATU) or “aerator” that discharges to a creek, roadside ditch, or another type of drainage way creating the possibility of untreated sewage contaminating our waterways will need inspected annually.



Systems utilizing a traditional septic tank, and mounds, will be inspected once every five years. Through sampling in the county, septic systems had a much smaller percentage of failure rate than that of aeration systems.

Fees

There is no operation permit fee for Licking County sewage systems, however, the systems must be inspected within the noted timeframes. All inspections are required to be reported to LCHD. Homeowners with aerators with an off-lot discharge and with a drip distribution system will need to renew their permits annually, and those with septic tanks or aerators that discharge to a leachfield or mound will be required to renew permits every five years. If a homeowner does not choose to have a Service Provider conduct their system inspection according to required inspection frequency, and they have not met the training requirements to inspect and service their own system and report the findings to the Health Department, they can choose to have LCHD inspect their system for a fee of \$45. LCHD will not begin charging inspection fees until 2017.

Operation Permit Renewal and O&M Inspection Frequency

System Type	Permit Renewal (Years)
ATU with Off-Lot Discharge	1
Drip/Low Pressure Distribution	1
Septic Tank/ATU with Leachfield	5
Septic Tank/ATU with Mound	5

2016-17 focus areas with a history of sewage treatment system failures:

- Dogwood Lakes (Bowling Green Township)
- Knoll Drive (Granville Township)
- Sunset Drive (Granville Township)
- Cole Estates (Jersey Township)
- Kirby Drive (Licking Township)
- Sandy Drive (Licking Township)
- Christy Lee Drive (Pataskala)
- Helen Drive (Pataskala)
- Woodside Drive (Pataskala)
- Derringer Court (St. Albans Township)
- Sycamore Road (Union Township)

For more information about the Sewage Treatment System Operation and Maintenance Program visit www.lickingcohealth.org, call (740) 349-6475, or email envionmental@lickingcohealth.org.