Summit County Public Health
1867 West Market Street ♦ Akron, Ohio 44313-6901
Phone: (330) 926-5600 ♦ Toll-free: 1 (877) 687-0002 ♦ Fax: (330) 923-6436
www.scph.org

Operation Permit Maintenance Requirements:

FILTER BED

(discharging filter bed system installed prior to January 1, 2007)

Homes that are not connected to sanitary sewer must have a household sewage treatment system (HSTS). The HSTS gathers all the wastewater from the home and treats it through various methods before returning the water to the environment. Summit County Public Health (SCPH) requires that these HSTS be functioning as designed. When these systems are not functioning properly, they create a public health nuisance and must be repaired or replaced to ensure that the wastewater from the home is adequately treated.

The operation permit program is designed to help ensure that the HSTS in Summit County are functioning properly. To do so, SCPH requires the following services be performed on your septic system:

1. Check sludge levels in trash trap/tank and pump when needed
2. Check distribution box
3. Check the inspection port
4. Check discharge pipe for obstructions and damage
5. Evaluate final effluent quality to determine if a nuisance is present

Frequency of Service: Once every 2 years

Permit Term: 2 years

PLEASE NOTE: SCPH does not provide these services.
A registered service provider must perform these services.

For additional information about the Operation Permit Program or to view a list of registered service providers, please visit the Water Quality page at www.scph.org or call 330-926-5600.

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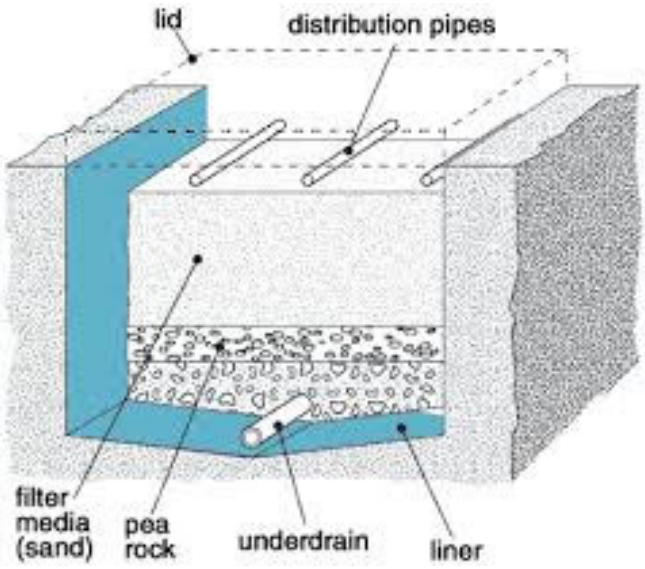
Sewage flows from the house into one or several septic tanks, depending upon the size of the house and local requirements. Effluent from the septic tank(s) may flow directly into the filter bed or into a lift station. The untreated wastewater then flows into the top of the filter bed. The effluent is treated by physical, chemical, and biological processes as it makes its way down through the filter bed. Suspended solids are removed by mechanical straining due to enhanced contact and sedimentation. Treatment occurs through the bacteria that colonize in the sand grains. Microorganisms use the organic matter and nutrients in the effluent for growth and reproduction.