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:

SEPTIC TO LEACHING

(septic tank to leaching component)

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 level in tank and pump tanks when needed.
2. Check splitter box and/or distribution boxes for functionality and cracks
3. Check for ponding and/or surfacing sewage in leaching component area and verify that no sewage overflow pipes have been installed
4. Check for surface water infiltration and/or clear water flows into the system components or onto or around the soil absorption area from the dwelling or structures
5. Check that the interceptor and/or curtain drains are clear of debris and effluent, when applicable

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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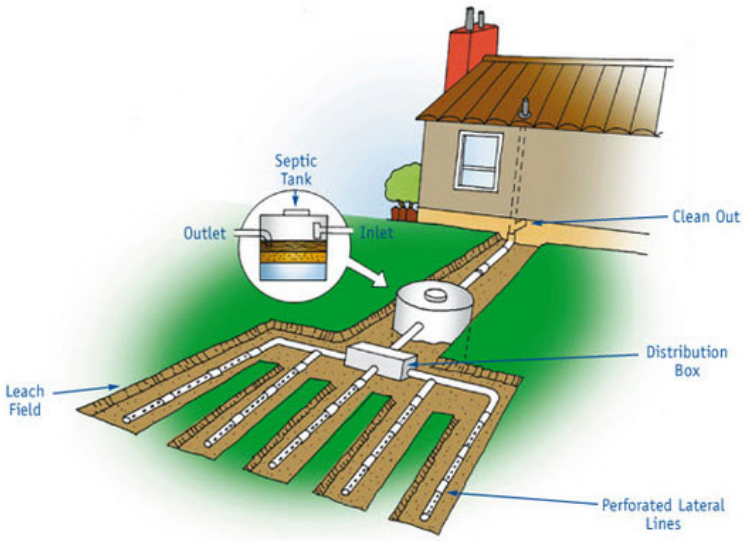
(septic tank to leaching component)

The septic tank collects all the discharges from the household plumbing and provides the needed time for wastes to settle or float. The heavy solids settle to the bottom of the tank where they are broken down by bacteria to form sludge. The lighter solids, fats and grease partially decompose and rise to the surface to form a layer of scum. This process allows the partially treated wastewater to be released to the absorption field.

The distribution box evenly distributes wastewater from the septic tank to pipes in the trenches of the absorption field. It is important that each trench receives an equal amount of flow to prevent overloading to one part of the absorption field.

Trenches receive partially treated sewage.

The leaching component is a system of trenches and distribution pipes where wastewater is biologically treated by the surrounding soil. The system is partially filled with washed gravel, stone or a gravelless product. The absorption field must be properly sized, constructed and maintained to assure satisfactory operation and long life.