



MERCER COUNTY

**HEALTH DISTRICT**

## **Household Sewage Treatment Systems Regulations**

This local regulation supplements the Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29 rule, which forms the basic installation guidelines for household sewage treatment systems across Ohio.

### **01 Definitions**

All terms used in these rules are defined as they are in Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29.

### **02 Household Sewage Treatment System Contractors**

(A) In reference to 3701-29-03 (H) of the Ohio Administrative Code, when the registered installer performs the duties of an installer on only the registrant's personal residence, the Board of Health may waive (C)(1), (C)(4), and (C)(6) of the rule. The Board of Health has determined that it shall waive paragraphs (C)(1), (C)(4) and (C)(6) of the rule.

(B) A person installing an HSTS for his/her own personal residence is exempt from registration and registration fee, liability insurance and surety bond requirements.

### **03 Soil Absorption Requirements**

(A) In reference to 3701-29-15 (G) of the Ohio Administrative Code, where the Board of Health may establish a vertical separation distance no less than six inches and no greater than eighteen inches, with a required minimum thickness of in-situ soil within the infiltrative distance of no less than six inches, the Board of Health has established a vertical separation distance of six (6) inches, with a required minimum thickness of in-situ soil of six (6) inches.

(B) As referenced in 3701-29-15 (H) of the Ohio Administrative Code, a Board of Health may establish the required minimum vertical separation distance of greater than zero inches and less than six inches, and the required minimum in-situ soil thickness within the vertical separation distance of greater than zero inches and less than six inches where the seasonal water table is present and the sewage effluent is pretreated to less than one thousand fecal

coliform CFU per one hundred milliliters. The Board of Health has established a vertical separation distance of greater than zero inches, with a required minimum thickness of in-situ soil of greater than zero inches.

## **04 Operation and Maintenance Management and System Owner Education**

(A) As required by Ohio Administrative Code 3701-29-09 (I), any installation of an HSTS, or type 2, 3, or 4 grey water recycling system requires an approved and valid operating permit from the Board of Health.

(B) Terms and conditions of operating permits for non-discharging systems or existing systems brought into the Operation and Maintenance Program in accordance with the Mercer County Operation & Maintenance Plan are to include:

1. A statement of attestation by system operator that they have obtained and understand the educational information provided to them by the Health Department upon approval of their system, regarding proper operation of their system, and
2. Maintenance of system, which is to require the septic tank to be inspected and its contents to be pumped out by a licensed septage hauler every 10 years at the very most, and
3. Renewal of the operating permit at the end of every 10 year period after the issuance of the initial permit and/or renewal permit. All maintenance terms must be met prior to renewal.

(C) Terms and conditions of operating permits for discharging systems or any systems requiring a service contract by state regulations or state special device approvals are to include:

1. Provision of a valid contract with a licensed service provider which sets forth maintenance and monitoring frequency of once per year if required by NPDES permit, and
2. Renewal of operating permit on an annual basis per calendar year, expiring December 31 of each year. Renewal is conditional upon receipt by Health Department of receipt from service provider showing that the system is functioning properly.

(D) Terms and conditions of operating permits for privies.

1. A statement of attestation by system operator that they have obtained and understand the educational information provided to them by the Health Department regarding proper operation of their component and the proper handling of the waste contents of the component, and

2. Maintenance of the component, which is to require the privy vault to be inspected and its contents to be pumped out by a licensed septage hauler at least once every year, or more frequently if holding capacity is exceeded, and
3. Renewal of operating permit on an annual basis per calendar year, expiring December 31 of each year. Renewal is conditional upon receipt by the Health Department of documents from a licensed septage hauler verifying that the component's contents have been properly disposed during the prior permitted year, and that the component is in good structural condition.

(E) In reference to 3701-29-19 (E)(1) of the Ohio Administrative Code, a registered service provider may collect effluent samples for the purpose of compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements, according to established collection protocol.

Originally adopted: July 11, 2007 (emergency procedure)

Amended: January 6, 2010; December 10, 2014; November 30, 2015; May 1, 2021