

606/437/5500

**Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems
Information Sheet
New Systems**

The Pike County Health Department wishes to inform the public of policy and procedure for onsite sewage disposal (Septic Tanks). The County Health Department regulates the installation of all septic tanks (systems that do not discharge to the stream). Those systems that treat sewage and are discharged to streams (Package Treatment Plants) are regulated by the State Division of Water. These systems also require approval of installations and permitting.

The following is a list of procedures for the permitting of an onsite sewage system.

1. The applicant must submit a drawing of the property. This drawing should consist of width and length of the lot, proposed location of home or structure to be served by the system; driveway, any utility lines, wells or other structures, old systems, creeks, roads, easements or hillsides that may be located on or around the site. Only then may an application for site evaluation be applied for. The fee for this service is \$75.00. The property boundaries must be physically marked through the use of stakes, flags or other markers. NO Application will be accepted without complete drawings, and only during the hours of 8:00 am to 9:30 am while the Environmentalist's are in the office.

Test Holes:

The homeowner or property owner must arrange to have four (4) postholes or two (2) backhoe pits dug. Place these in the general area of where system is to be used for the disposal area (leaching or lateral lines). Those holes should be placed 40 to 50 feet apart and must be dug to a depth of 42 inches.

2. Call the health department when the test holes are ready and request an appointment for the site evaluation to be done. Sewage disposal is a high priority service and the site evaluation will be done as soon as possible.

The site evaluation will determine what size tank or how many, and how much lateral line would be required for the specific site. The environmentalist is also looking for evidence of water tables that might be in the soil horizons. These water tables will impact the installation and operation of the sewer system.

Setback Requirements:

The sewer system must be located five (5) feet from a driveway, ten (10) feet from a house or any other structure, (25) feet from a stream or creek, ten (10) feet from utility lines (gas, water, utility poles), (70) feet from any well, including all neighboring wells and (5) feet from any property line, (10) Feet form another septic system.

Once the site is determined to be suitable for the installation of an onsite system, a detailed map must be submitted by the certified installer (or homeowner **if** installing the system) of the proposed system layout showing the **exact dimensions** of all setbacks distances, placement of tank(s), distribution box (s), and placement of lateral lines and all components. This layout must be approved by the certified inspector from the health department prior to issuance of a permit to install the system. **If a certified installer is installing system, that installer must submit the map and apply for the permit. The only time a homeowner can apply for the permit is, if that homeowner is installing the system themselves and must sign permit.**

If the site fails because of insufficient space to install system, high water tables, or type of soil, the owner will be referred to the Division of Water for approval of a package treatment plant or if possible allow the property owner to install an experimental system such as an artificial wetlands.

3. The onsite sewage permit fee is \$100.00 for a private home, \$150.00 for a commercial installation. The actual installation may be performed by the homeowner on a private installation. Any commercial installation must be performed by a certified installer. A certified installer list may be obtained from the health department by request. **Permits will expire within 1 year, if systems are not installed within that time frame another permit must be applied for and homeowner or certified installer will be charged an additional permit fee. Permits WILL NOT be issued without a correct 911 address!!!!!! And only during the hours of 8:00 am to 9:30 am, as the environmentalist will have to approve the layout and setbacks.**

4. Before the system is covered, a final inspection must be conducted by a certified inspector of the health department. The inspector checks for proper components used in the installation; the tank, distribution box, type and amount of lateral, type of pipe that is used to connect all the components. Once the system meets all requirements the approval granted; the system may be covered.

Additional fees may be charged for additional site evaluations and inspections if the owner or certified installer fails to inform the inspector of water or gas lines, changes the location of the system; locates a swimming pool in the middle of the system or drills a well closer than 70 feet to the proposed installation. The health department receives several calls each week concerning washer or sink lines that discharge to the creek or ditch. These waste lines are considered to be sewage and therefore have to be connected to a system. If you have this situation, contact the Pike County Health Department at 606/437/5500, Ext. 541. An environmentalist can advise you on how to correct the situation.

The responsibility for the environment belongs to all of us; please help improve it through the proper installation and operation of onsite sewage systems.

Copies of all applications will be made available to the Kentucky Division of Plumbing through their local plumbing inspector.

For additional information regarding the State Plumbing code, please contact Ricky Adams, State Plumbing Inspector at 606/509/5530, Monday and Wednesday between the hours of 7:30 am and 9:00 am only.

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