

# **Household Sewage Treatment Systems**

## **Operation and Maintenance Program**

The Butler County General Health District has begun locating and evaluating all household sewage treatment systems (HSTS) as required under O.R.C. 3718.02. This program began with an evaluation of sewage nuisances and stream contamination data. This information was used to determine which areas to inspect first.

The inspections are conducted in waves; letters are sent to homeowners informing them that they have 90 days to determine how their system will be inspected.

The Homeowner has the option to hire a service provider or request inspections from Health District staff Sanitarians.

After the first and second notice a final notice will be mailed to the home owner stating that they have 20 days left to respond. Should they not respond at all, a Sanitarian will visit the property to inspect the household sewage treatment system (HSTS).

Inspections consist of a visit to the property to determine the location, components and operation of the HSTS. This information is gathered by an evaluation of the topography, probing of the soil in the area, and walking across the soil absorption area to ensure sewage is not rising to the surface or illicitly discharged elsewhere.

Should a public health nuisance be discovered a notice of violation will be issued that shall require that the H.S.T.S be maintained free of nuisances.

The health department environmental staff will be available to guide home owners on the necessary steps towards system repair, alteration or replacement.

Butler County General Health District has access to an Ohio E.P.A. grant to provide financial assistance for a home owner that may qualify based on need.

Once a property has passed inspection and fee payment has been received, the property will be issued an operation permit. Operation permits for on-site sewage absorption systems are valid for ten years; upon expiration another inspection will be conducted to verify the continuous safe operation of the HSTS.

Surface discharging systems require annual inspections and an operation permit to ensure environmental safe operation to surface discharge.

Please contact the Director of Environmental Health; Jeff Agnew (513-887-5239) with any questions, comments or concerns.