



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Tuscarawas County
Health Department

Home Sewage Treatment System Operation & Maintenance Permit Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Permit, and why do I need it?

The O&M permit is a new rule that was created by the Ohio Department of Health. The rule says that if you have a Home Sewage Treatment System (HSTS), most commonly known as a septic system, you must have an Operation Permit. Even if the septic system is old and you didn't need a permit in the past, you now need a permit.

When did this program start?

The State rules changed in 2015, but Tuscarawas County Health Department (TCHD) did not start this State program until 2022.

Why is this important to me?

Taking care of your septic system will make it last longer. We know that taking care of your septic system is expensive, and it is even more expensive to replace your septic system. The cost of a new septic system can be more than \$20,000.

What are the rules for my septic system?

The rules for your septic system are written on your Operation Permit. They are on page two near the top of the page. If you have more questions, please reach out to us.

How can I find out what type of septic system I have?

You can call us at (330) 343-5550 or email us at eh@tchdnow.org.

What does this permit cost me as a homeowner?

There are 2 different types of permits. The permit type is based upon the kind of septic system you own. One type of permit costs \$50 and lasts for 2 years. One type of permit costs \$85 and lasts for 5 years. Payments can be sent in the mail or made via credit card over the phone.

What happens if I don't pay for the permit?

If you don't pay for the permit by the date on your letter, you will be charged a 25% late fee. If you still don't pay, the cost may be added to your property tax bill.

I have an old septic system, do I have to replace my system?

As long as your septic system isn't causing a problem for you or your neighbors, then you don't need to do anything except the maintenance. If it isn't broken, don't fix it.



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Who can do the work on my septic system?

You must have the work done by a professional who is on our list of service providers. The list is on our website, but we can mail you a copy if you call us. It is a good idea to call a few service providers as the cost can be different. The work cannot be done by the homeowner unless the homeowner is approved by the company that makes the septic system.

What if I need help with the cost of repairs or getting a new septic system?

TCHD is here to help. We have a fund of \$150,000 that you may be able to use. Information is on our website at www.tchdnow.org. Look for the WPCLF application.

What will happen to me if I don't do what the permit says?

It will cost you more now and later. You may get an inspection with a fee. You will be placed on a more expensive permit. You will cause your septic system to fail sooner.

My neighbor/friend didn't get a permit. Why didn't everyone with a septic system get a permit?

TCHD had records for 8,500 homes. Those homes have received a permit. We are adding new septic systems to our program. All homes with a septic system will be a part of this program within 10 years.

I have more questions. Who can I call?

Call us. You can reach us at (330) 343-5550 or email at eh@tchdnow