Why do I need an Operation Permit?
Operation and Maintenance Permits are required by the new 2015 Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-29. The Defiance County O & M program will provide homeowners education regarding maintenance of their septic systems. The Operation Permits will also ensure that proper maintenance is being performed that may increase the life of the Sewage Treatment System (STS.)

If my septic system is “grandfathered in,” does this make me exempt from the O & M program?
Every septic system in Defiance County will be in the O&M program eventually. The 2015 statewide sewage rules mandate that all septic systems be in an O&M program, no system is exempt.

If I buy a new home, will I have to purchase a new O&M permit or will the current permit transfer?
The operation permit is connected to a septic system, not the owner. The permit will transfer to the new buyer. If the home you are buying does not have a permit, or the permit expires, you will need to purchase a new permit.

Will I have to put in a new system?
A new system is not required unless it is causing a public health nuisance or it cannot be repaired or altered to remediate the nuisance.

Questions and Notes:

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CONTACT US
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Effective April 2019
Permits ensure that proper maintenance is being performed. This may increase the life of the septic system.

Minimum Operation & Maintenance Requirements
- The operation permit is $60.00 ($15 per year) for a 4 year permit.
- No signs of system failure and no observed nuisance
- All electrical and mechanical components are operational (if applicable)
- Proof of system pumping according to the recommended pumping schedule or less than 30% solids in septic tank

Inspection Standards
1. Each owner of an Sewage Treatment System (STS) will have the system inspected and/or the tank pumped by a registered contractor during the period covered by the operation permit.
2. Each owner of a STS will provide documentation of inspection or maintenance to the Board of Health within 60 days of the service.
3. Should an owner fail to provide evidence of inspection, the Health District shall inspect the system. The Health District will issue a notice to the owner regarding any required maintenance or repairs.

The Health Department will:
- Provide education to system owners.
- Allow owners to register to perform maintenance on their own systems.
- Maintain service records.
- Map septic systems as information becomes available.
- When needed, enforce repairs/replacements.

The Health Department will not:
- Require replacement of existing systems that are not causing a nuisance.
- Perform door-to-door inspections.
- Require a complete replacement of a system when a repair will suffice.