



## Septage Hauler FAQs

*The new statewide sewage rules in Chapter 3701-29 of the Ohio Administrative Code bring about changes in all aspects of sewage treatment, including the collection and transportation of domestic septage from on-site sewage treatment systems.*

*Any person who engages in the collection, transportation, disposal, and/or land application of domestic septage is considered a septage hauler. Septage haulers are required to comply with all applicable rules within OAC 3701-29.*

**Q: Under the new rules, do I pay any registration fees to the state?**

**A:** Septage haulers are required to register with the board of health in each district where work is performed. Registration fees are set and collected by the local health districts. ODH does not receive any portion of the local registration fee.

**Q: Am I required to be bonded?**

**A:** Yes. The law requires statewide bonding for septage haulers, STS installers, and service providers. The law also prohibits any local health district from requiring additional bonds for these categories of registration [ORC 3718.02 (A)(8)]. The original bond document is to be submitted to ODH. The septage hauler bond amount is \$25,000. The statewide [septage hauler bond form](#) is available on the ODH website.

**Q: Am I required to have my truck(s) inspected by every health department where I register?**

**A:** The new rules allow you to have each truck inspected *once* by the local health district where the company is based in lieu of inspections by each local health district where work is performed [OAC 3701-29-03 (I)(5)]. The inspection must be completed using the [Septage Hauler Truck Inspection Report](#) and a copy provided to each local health district at the time of registration.

**Q: Am I required to use ODH's pumping report?**

**A:** Yes. The rules require that pumping and disposal records be provided on a form developed by ODH [OAC 3701-29-20(C)]. This helps ensure the information provided to the homeowner and the health district is consistent across the state. The uniform pumping report will also eliminate the need for any local forms that may be required by local health districts for pumping records.

**Q: Where do I get copies of the required form for pump reports?**

**A:** The [Septage Pumping Report](#) form is available on the ODH website in electronic form that you can download and print copies as needed. Some local health districts have indicated they will provide copies of the form to their registrants. Contact the local health districts where you register to see if they are providing copies.

ODH will also provide an electronic fill-in version of the form on the ODH website that can be downloaded and used to complete the record electronically prior to printing.

**Q: Why do I have to inspect the tank(s)?**

**A:** The new rules require information about the condition of the tank be provided at the time a tank is pumped and cleaned. [OAC 3701-29-20(C)] The legislature that required the new sewage rules recognized that the reason most sewage treatment systems fail is because homeowners don't maintain their systems, in part because they are not aware of the required maintenance until it is too late. The information provided on the pumping report will inform the homeowner of any issues related to the tank that need to be addressed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the system.

**Q: What if I can't see everything that's included on the pump report?**

**A:** Pumpers are expected to report on what can be seen at the time the system is pumped. If specific inspection items are not visible on the tank, mark the form as inconclusive or not visible.



**Q: Am I required to make repairs to correct issues identified on the pumping report?**

**A:** You are not obligated to correct any issues identified on the pumping report. You may choose to offer the necessary services to correct the issues. ODH has previously provided guidance on activities, including minor repairs, which can be completed by a registered septage hauler without requiring additional registration as an installer or service provider. (see *Sewage Treatment Systems Contractors' Allowable Activities by Category of Registration*)

**Q: Do I have to complete a separate form for each location when I pump portable toilets?**

**A:** A separate pumping report has been developed for the purpose of tracking and reporting on the portable toilet pumping. The [Portable Toilet Septage Pumping Report](#) is available on the ODH website and is also available as an Excel worksheet upon request. It is intended to collect summary information, including the date, total volume of septage pumped, and disposal facility.



**Q: Why am I required to submit a copy of the pump report to the health department?**

**A:** The law passed by the legislature included a provision that required local health districts begin tracking maintenance activities on all sewage treatment systems through an Operation & Maintenance (O&M) program. Submission of the pumping reports ensures that this maintenance activity is reported to the local health district for inclusion in the O&M program.

**Q: How long do I need to keep my copies of the pump reports?**

**A:** Septage haulers are required to retain copies of pumping reports for a period of five years. The pump reports can be maintained in either paper or electronic form. [OAC 3701-29-20 (C)]

**Q: How long do I have to submit the pump report to the health district after the tank is pumped?**

**A:** Reporting requirements are established by the board of health. Contact each local health district where you register for the required reporting frequency and method of submission (paper or electronic). At a minimum, the new rules require records regarding operation and maintenance (including pumping reports) be reported to the local health district *within sixty days* of the maintenance activity. [OAC 3701-29-19 (C)(1)]

**Q: What do I do if I want to land apply domestic septage?**

**A:** Land application sites must be inspected and permitted by the local health district prior to land application. The permit for a land application site is valid for one year from the date of issuance. All land application activities must be done in accordance applicable federal, state, and local regulations, including 40 CFR 503.

**Q: Can my local health district prohibit me from land application of septage?**

**A:** Yes, the local health district has the option to adopt local rules that prohibit, restrict, or limit the land application of septage within its jurisdiction. [OAC 3701-29-20 (A)]

Additional Resources:

For more information about STS contractor registration requirements, visit:

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/eh/sewage/Contractor/Registration%20Requirements.aspx>

Information about the Ohio Department of Health Residential Sewage Program can be found at:

<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/eh/sewage/sewage1.aspx>