

# Fix It Before It Fails

## Get the Facts



Don't let rumors lead you into expensive repairs and unnecessary sewage system replacements. Ohio's new sewage rules will NOT require everyone in the state to automatically replace their septic system.

The new sewage rules are going into place for several reasons:

- They haven't been updated since 1977
- While some counties have modernized their own rules since then, other counties have not. These rules will set a minimum standard for Ohio homeowners so you can be assured that your neighbor's system is not leaking sewage into your yard- or the ponds, lakes and other waterways that you and your family enjoy.

Rumor	Truth
No septic systems will be grandfathered in ----- If your system was installed before 1974 you will have to replace it	You can keep your system as-is as long as there's not sewage on the top of the ground, missing parts/pieces or backup in your home.
The Ohio Department of Health Report says nearly 1/3 (31%) of all septic systems in Ohio are failing.	If a system is "failing" it could indicate a number of problems, but this doesn't necessarily mean you'll have to replace the entire system to meet the standards in the new rules or the existing state laws- it could just mean replacing missing or broken parts or adding treatment.
This will cost you hundreds of dollars in fees every year	The state will charge up to \$75 to install a new system, \$34 dollars to alter a system and \$0 to get an operation permit. You usually end up paying a little more than that because local health departments also need to charge fees to run these programs (staff, training, etc.). Getting your operation permit could be as easy as taking a receipt to your local health department that shows you hired a registered company to pump your septic tank. Local health districts set the amount and length of the operation permit, which can vary between one and ten years.
You'll have to use new, expensive technology instead of traditional septic systems.	The new rules offer a wide range of technology WHEN it is time to install, replace or alter.
Leach fields are no longer an option.	Septic tank/leach field systems are still allowed under the new rules and are the preferred system where soil conditions are good.