



Ohio Department of Health Bureau of Environmental Health

Know How to Select a Home Site

"To improve and protect the health of all Ohioans"

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If you are buying new property you should first contact your municipality to check if there are public sewer lines available to the property, and confirm that there is capacity available. If not, allow for the cost of installing a household sewage system.

It is extremely risky to purchase land outright without considering how you will manage your household wastewater. Contact your local health department to determine if you can build your home on the lot or confirm that the seller has obtained approval for a household sewage system design for your proposed house. Local health departments issue permits based on the soil evaluations and site conditions. Make sure you have design approval before you close title to the property.



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Inspect the lot with your contractor to confirm that the site and soil conditions will not cause any unexpected costs during sewage system construction. The household sewage system design will specify the exact location, shape, size and materials of the sewage system. Lots with difficult site or soil conditions may require complex sewage systems. Pumps and alternative systems may be required when conditions prohibit the use of a conventional sewage system.

Isolate the area designated for your sewage system by roping or fencing the area to keep construction traffic from destroying the soil needed for absorption of wastewater. Remember that sewage systems cannot be located under driveways or sidewalks. Ensure that future development such as swimming pools, out buildings, and room additions adhere to the sewage system isolation distances. Disregarding these issues can destroy the soil necessary for wastewater absorption and may render your property unusable for a household sewage system.

If I have more money than I know what to do with, do I still have to plan for my household sewage system?



Make sure the contractors are registered and bonded properly with your local health department and that the required permits have been obtained. The system should be back filled and seeded following installation and local health department approval.

After all the construction is complete and you move into your new home, don't forget about the investment you have in your sewage system. Learn the facts about sewage system operation and maintenance by reading the fact sheets titled "Know Your Septic Tank" and "Know Your Household Sewage System".

Protect Your Investment