



GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

12611 Ravenwood Dr., Suite 301, Chardon, OH 44024-1071

Septic Evaluation Owner Agreement

- A) **Voluntary Evaluation.** The evaluation of a home sewage disposal system is not required by law in Geauga County when a home is sold, but can be performed by Geauga Public Health (GPH) on a request basis. The requestor can instead opt to hire a private registered Geauga County Service Provider to conduct the evaluation, though GPH will not validate their findings or act upon them. A list of registered service providers is available upon request.
- B) **Refunds.** Fees (less a handling charge) may be reimbursed prior to inspection. Once the initial trip is made (regardless of results) the fee will not be returned. Refunds will take at least 30 days due to auditing requirements.
- C) **Follow-up on Violations.** If sewage system malfunctions are found during an evaluation (surfacing, or discharge of improperly treated sewage effluent) which indicate a possible public health hazard or nuisance, **LEGAL ORDERS will be issued for correction.** If sanitary sewers are accessible to this property, **ORDERS will be issued for connection.**
- D) **Scheduling.** Home sewage system evaluations are normally performed on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday only. The specific test date is at the discretion of the Environmental Health Specialist (field inspector), dependent upon conditions found at the site. It is necessary that an adult be present at the time of evaluation. A dye test will be performed that necessitates entry to the home. After this form has been submitted, arrange for an appointment with the inspector who will be conducting the evaluation.
- E) **Turn-around Time.** Sewage evaluation results will not be available for at least eight days following the inspection due to dye testing. Please schedule your requests accordingly. In some cases when a home sale is involved, buyers and sellers can agree to put sufficient funds for system repairs in escrow to permit loan closing when weather or other factors have caused delays.
- F) **Results.** Evaluation results will only be reported on Health Department-provided forms and will be mailed/emailed to the requestor and/or desired individuals. Evaluation requests and results are public record of the Health Department.
- G) **Limitations.** The evaluation, where a home is involved, will not necessarily determine if the applicable systems are installed within the legal boundaries of the subject property. While connection of internal plumbing (including laundry) to the system may be verified, this does not constitute any approval of the interior plumbing itself.
- H) **Conditions for Inspection.** No sewage system evaluation will be conducted when:
- Snow depth exceeds 2 inches over on-lot systems. Discharging systems will be determined on an individual basis.
 - Grass and/or brush exceed(s) 6 inches.
 - Not all components of the system are uncovered and clearly visible for the inspector. This includes, for example, any septic/aeration tanks, lift stations, distribution boxes, and sample boxes/discharge pipes from which a flowing sample can be taken (in the case of discharging systems). This is the responsibility of the homeowner or person requesting the evaluation.
 - The home is vacant and/or the sewage system has not been under normal load for at least 30 consecutive days.
 - Any septic or aerobic treatment tank(s) will be pumped in the 60 days preceding or the week after the dye test.
- I acknowledge if any of the above conditions exist, a re-evaluation fee may be required for another visit to the property.**
- I) The opinions that are given as a result of this application are rendered without complete knowledge or observation of some of the individual components of the home sewage disposal system and applies only to the date and time the evaluation is conducted. This opinion does not grant or imply any guarantee or warranty of the future performance of the home sewage disposal system.

Homeowner Signature: _____

(Property owner or legal agent required to sign this form)

Updated: 6/1/2026