

Operations and Maintenance Program for Aerobic Treatment Units

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is required to have a service contract?

A: Anyone with a home septic system which utilizes an aerobic treatment unit and is located under the jurisdiction of the Stark County Health Department.

Q: What is an aerobic treatment unit?

A: A component of a septic system that utilizes a compressor/motor to deliver oxygen to properly treat waste.

Q: Why is a service contract necessary?

A: These systems are highly mechanical and require regular maintenance to function properly. Without proper maintenance your system may fail. A failing system may release raw sewage, which is known to spread disease. Having a service contract with a service provider means your system will receive proper maintenance.

Q: How long must I have a contract for?

A: A contract must be maintained for the life of the system.

Q: How do I obtain a service contract?

A: Contact a Registered Service Provider who services your type of system. A list of service providers can be found on our website www.starkhealth.org/sewage.htm. Or call 330-493-9904 to have a copy mailed to you.

Q: What if I don't know which type of system I have?

A: Your system type may be located on the system control panel. A Service Provider or the health department may be able to help identify an older unit.

Q: When did this regulation begin?

A: January 9, 2012

Q: I recently put in a new aerobic treatment unit do I need a contract?

A: Any new system will come with a two year service contract. You will need to obtain a contract two years after your unit was installed.

Q: How do I know my Service Provider is servicing my unit?

A: All Service Providers will place a small, white sticker which reads "Stark County Service Inspection" along with a number on your unit each time an inspection is completed. The sticker will be on the control panel if accessible; if not a secondary location may be used. The health department will keep track of your sticker number and service dates.

Q: Can I service my unit myself?

A: We are exploring this option for qualified individuals. In the meantime report all servicing to us.

Q: Why did the Stark County Health Department pass this regulation?

A: A recent Ohio EPA study has shown improperly treated sewage has significantly impaired Stark County's rivers and creeks, due in part to poorly maintained aerobic treatment units. Improperly treated waste is known to spread diseases, such as Hepatitis A, E. coli, Encephalitis, and Salmonella. This regulation was passed to protect public health and the environment.

Q: What happens if I don't obtain a service contract?

A: Penalty fees and/or liens may be assessed against you for failure to comply with this regulation.

Q: How can I obtain the Operation Manual for my unit?

A: Visit ODH's website www.odh.ohio.gov and search "Approved Pretreatment Components".