Sewage Treatment Inspection Procedures

The following information is an outline of what to expect during the sewage system inspection. Each site is specific and it may vary slightly from the following procedures. If you have questions during any part of the inspection, this office encourages you to contact us. For a thorough and timely evaluation, the information you provide on the application must be accurate and completely filled out to the best of your ability.

- Turn the application in as quickly as possible. It may take up to a week to schedule an inspection. The actual inspection may take multiple days to complete.

- If the system has no permit or other documentation, or if critical information is missing from the application, approval of the sewage system may be difficult.

- This office will inspect the entire system outside of the house and may need to investigate plumbing lines and control panels inside the home as well.

- All openings on tanks and system components must have risers and lids that are at least at the current grade of the ground. Even if the tank does not currently have risers or was installed without all the risers, they must be present for an inspection. Approval cannot be given if the inspection ports are inaccessible.

- If your system consists of a septic tank with a leach field this office may need access to water to test the system. Tanks should not be pumped until the initial investigation is completed. A water test helps verify the tank is watertight and helps determine how the leach field is absorbing wastewater.

- Tracing dye may be added to a septic tank with a leach field. Once tracing dye is added this office may need to make multiple visits back to the site on consecutive days after the dye is added to inspect the leach field.

- If the system has an aerator, all components outside the house including the tank, motor, chlorinator (if applicable), and discharge or leach field along with the control panel (which may be located inside the home) will be inspected.

- If the system is disapproved based on lack of knowledge or a permit is not on file, the system can be approved if certain components are upgraded to the current sewage system standards OR if the homeowner agrees to have annual operational inspections conducted on the system. This approval will be based on the system performance on a year to year basis. The system will not need to be upgraded as long it is not creating a public health nuisance. If the homeowner agrees to an approval based on annual operational inspections, the homeowner will be responsible for paying for the annual operational inspection fee.

- If the system has an obvious failure or is creating a public health nuisance, orders will be given to immediately abate this nuisance.