



Sewage Treatment System Rules

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Before 1/1/2015

- Statewide sewage treatment system regulations dated from 1977
 - Local authority to adopt more stringent rules

2007



Real Estate Transfer Inspections

- Not *specifically* regulated by the sewage treatment systems Administrative or Revised Codes

ORC 3718.012 Older Sewage Treatment Systems

- A sewage treatment system that was in operation prior to the effective date of this section shall not be required to be replaced with a new sewage treatment system under this chapter or rules adopted under it and shall be deemed approved if the system does not cause a public health nuisance or, if the system is causing a public health nuisance as provided in section 3718.011 of the Revised Code, repairs are made to the system that eliminate the public health nuisance as determined by the applicable board of health.

ORC 3718.011 Conditions under which sewage treatment system causes a public health nuisance

(A) For purposes of this chapter, a sewage treatment system is causing a public health nuisance if any of the following situations occurs and, after notice by a board of health to the applicable property owner, timely repairs are not made to that system to eliminate the situation:

- (1) The sewage treatment system is not operating properly due to a missing component, incorrect settings, or a mechanical or electrical failure.
- (2) There is a blockage in a known sewage treatment system component or pipe that causes a backup of sewage or effluent affecting the treatment process or inhibiting proper plumbing drainage.

(3) An inspection conducted by, or under the supervision of, the environmental protection agency or a sanitarian registered under Chapter 4736. of the Revised Code documents that there is ponding of liquid or bleeding of liquid onto the surface of the ground or into surface water and the liquid has a distinct sewage odor, a black or gray coloration, or the presence of organic matter and any of the following:

- (a) The presence of sewage effluent identified through a dye test;
- (b) The presence of fecal coliform at a level that is equal to or greater than five thousand colonies per one hundred milliliters of liquid as determined in two or more samples of the liquid when five or fewer samples are collected or in more than twenty per cent of the samples when more than five samples of the liquid are collected;

(c) Water samples that exceed one thousand thirty e. coli counts per one hundred milliliters in two or more samples when five or fewer samples are collected or in more than twenty per cent of the samples when more than five samples are collected.

(4) With respect to a discharging system for which an NPDES permit has been issued under Chapter 6111. of the Revised Code and rules adopted under it, the system routinely exceeds the effluent discharge limitations specified in the permit.

(B) With respect to divisions (A)(1) and (2) of this section, a property owner may request a test to be conducted by a board of health to verify that the sewage treatment system is causing a public health nuisance. The property owner is responsible for the costs of the test.

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- (2) There is a blockage in a known sewage treatment system component or pipe that causes a backup of sewage or effluent affecting the treatment process or inhibiting proper plumbing drainage.

However...

ORC 3718.023 Approval of installation, operation or alteration of sewage treatment systems

(B) A board of health shall ensure that the design and installation of a soil absorption system prevents public health nuisances. In addition, a board of health shall ensure that a sewage treatment system that is installed after the effective date of this section shall not discharge into a ditch, stream, pond, lake, natural or artificial waterway, drain tile, or other surface water or onto the surface of the ground unless authorized by a national pollutant discharge elimination system permit issued under Chapter 6111. of the Revised Code and rules adopted under it. In addition, a board shall ensure that a sewage treatment system shall not discharge into an abandoned well, a drainage well, a dry well, a cesspool, a sinkhole, or another connection to ground water. If a household sewage treatment system serving a two- or three-family dwelling or a small flow on-site sewage treatment system is classified as a class V injection well, a board of health shall ensure that the system complies with rules adopted under section 6111.043 of the Revised Code and with Chapter 3745-34 of the Administrative Code.

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Dry Well

- Decentralized Wastewater Glossary, compiled by The Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment

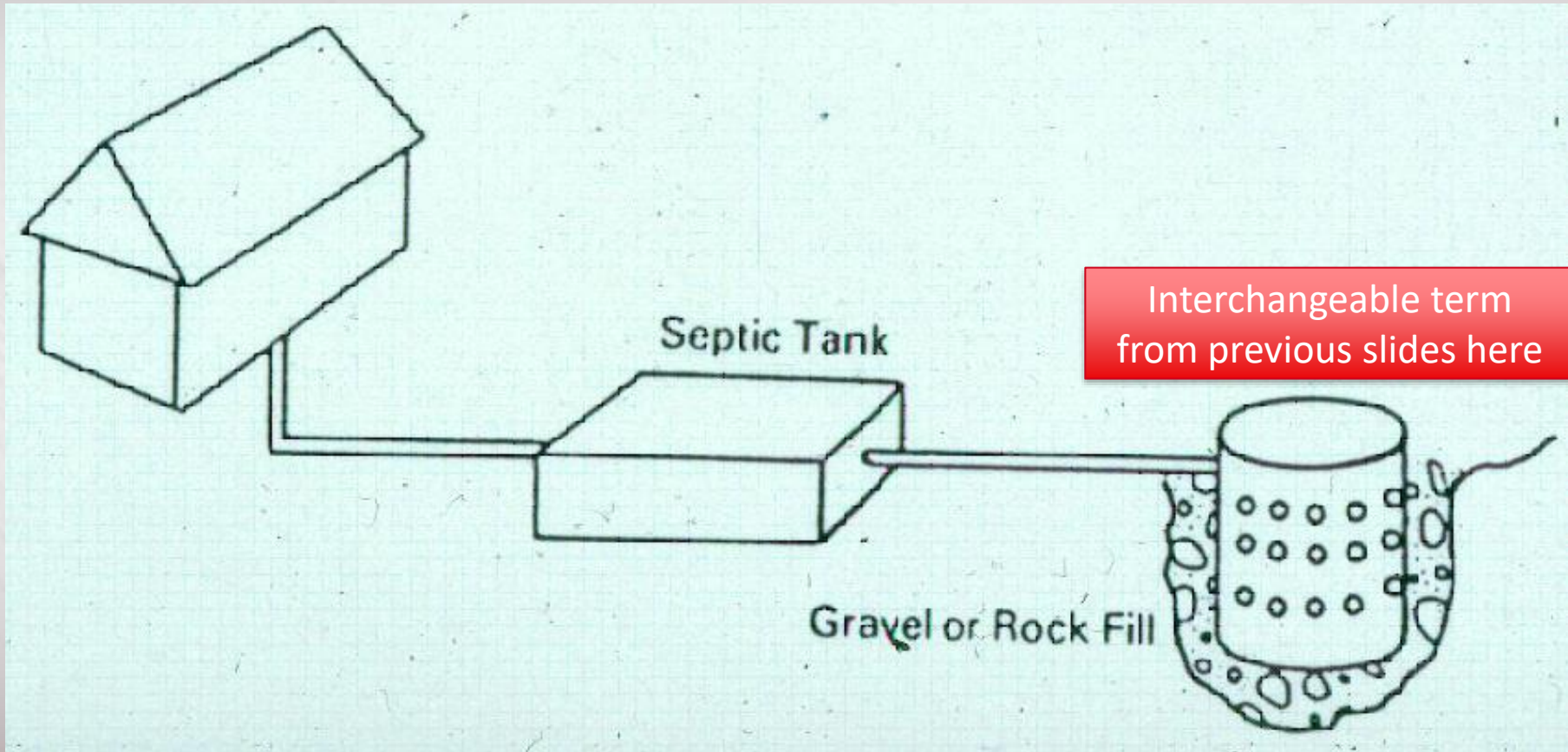
Drywell: Partially lined underground pit (regardless of geometry) into which drainage from roofs, basement floors or other such sources is discharged and from which the liquid seeps into the surrounding soil; if effluent (such as that from a septic tank) is discharged to such a component, it is considered a seepage pit.

Leaching pit: See seepage pit.

Seepage pit: Excavation (deeper than it is wide) which receives septic tank effluent and from which the effluent seeps into the surrounding soil through the bottom and openings in the side of the pit; emphasis is on disposal rather than treatment; see also cesspool.

Cesspool: Underground pit into which raw household wastewater is discharged and from which the liquid seeps into the surrounding soil; may or may not be partially lined; if septic tank effluent is discharged to such a component it is considered a seepage pit.

**Dry well = Leaching Pit = Leaching
Well = Leaching Pit = Cesspool =
Seepage Well = Seepage Pit = ...**



Incremental Repair or Replacement

(C) The board of health may work with a system owner to develop a plan for incremental repair and/or replacement of a STS when the STS is creating a nuisance condition and/or failing. An incremental repair and/or replacement plan shall be used to establish a phased approach to either repair, alter or replace a STS over a period of time as specified in the plan and as approved by the board of health. When a STS is creating a public health nuisance, an incremental repair and replacement plan shall require sufficient repairs and/or alterations to the STS to minimize or correct the nuisance conditions or system failure in a timely manner. The following shall also apply to incremental repair and replacement of a STS:

- (1) An alteration permit, as applicable, shall be required for each phase of work to be completed on a STS as required in this rule and any prior permit issued for work on the STS has already expired. Permits issued by the board of health as part of an incremental replacement plan are transferable upon the sale of the property for which the permit is issued;
- (2) The board of health may include conditions in an incremental replacement plan, including but not limited to:
 - (a) The period of time over which the incremental repair and/or replacement will occur, and the established timeframes for addition or replacement of components or other agreed upon steps in the plan;
 - (b) Requirement of a soil evaluation that meets the requirements of rule 3701-29-07 of the Administrative Code;

- (c) An evaluation of water usage to determine options for reducing the hydraulic load to the STS including, but not limited to the installation of reduced water use fixtures, or voluntary reductions in water usage during phases of the plan;
- (d) An evaluation of waste strength, if applicable, to determine the need for additional pretreatment prior to dispersal to the soil;
- (e) Phased installation of STS components or devices that include, but are not limited to providing pretreatment of effluent, improving dispersal of effluent to the soil absorption component, adding capacity to the soil absorption component, replacing the soil absorption component or otherwise reducing public health nuisance conditions or system failure; and
- (f) Annual or periodic inspections. The board of health may require payment of inspection fees for additional inspections required as a condition of a permit that includes an incremental replacement plan.

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