



April 19, 2020
Greenville, OH

County Home Sewage Treatment System Analysis

The Darke County General Health District's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program has been working to update home sewage treatment system (HSTS) information in order to determine what types of septic systems are within Darke County. This is an update from previous mapping information to include current system information. This will allow the health department to easily identify areas or homes of concern for pollution potential. Areas of concern may be multiple discharging systems that have unsatisfactory inspections through the sewage operation and maintenance (O&M) program or locations with multiple unpermitted septic systems. The term tank-to-tile is often used to identify homes that do not have permitted septic systems. It is likely that these homes discharge to a tile and untreated sewage leaves the property. This sewage can contaminate our ground and surface waters. Homes with tank-to-tile systems have been identified in the past and homeowners have been notified that they need to install an approved HSTS. However, many of these systems still exist. Homeowners that do not have a permitted septic system will be receiving a letter that outlines the steps they need to take in order to replace their septic system. Unpermitted septic systems or tank-to-tiles are not "grandfathered" in and a permit is required for all homes that utilize a septic system.

Since 2015, all local health departments in Ohio have been required to operate an O&M program which consists of inspecting and evaluating HSTS to assure they are working properly. The systems currently being evaluated on the O&M program are permitted systems in the county. Homeowners without permitted systems will need to install a properly working and permitted system which will then include them in the O&M program.

By utilizing mapping software and database information, the health department can easily determine if a home has a HSTS. A map is available on our website which shows the different types of septic systems and how many are located in the county. In order to view county data on septic systems, please visit our website at www.darkecountyhealth.org. You can also contact the Environmental Division at the Health Department at 937-548-4196 ext. 209, Monday – Friday, 8am – 4pm with any questions on the septic system located on your property or to determine what the process is for installing a new system.