

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. The aerobic treatment unit is also known as an “aerator”.

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: I maintain my system by getting my tank pumped is that sufficient?

A: Getting your tank pumped is necessary, but is not the same as a service contract. The aerobic treatment unit itself needs regular maintenance in addition to pumping the tank. You must obtain a contract for the aerobic treatment unit.

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 https://starkhealth.org/government/offices/public_health/environmental_health/sewage.php#outer-2537. Please look under the “If Aerobic, Type” column on the list for your specific brand of unit. Only contact companies that are licensed to service your specific unit. You may also 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 or in the guidance material you were given when the system was installed. 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: 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: My aerobic treatment unit does not discharge, but leads into leach lines. Do I need a service contract?

A: Yes, your entire system will only work properly when the aerobic treatment unit is working. Your septic system was designed to work with a functioning aerobic treatment unit.

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: If you are the owner and primary resident of the property you will be able to service the unit. You are required to register with us, perform the servicing as detailed by the manufacturer and report all servicing to us on a yearly basis. To receive a registration packet please contact Courtney Myers at 330-493-9904 ext 239. Landlords with multiple properties are not permitted to service rental units.

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: Follow the links on our webpage https://starkhealth.org/government/offices/public_health/environmental_health/sewage.php#outer-2537, visit ODH's website www.odh.ohio.gov and search "Approved Pretreatment Components", or contact you manufacturer directly.

For additional information please contact: Courtney Myers, MPH, REHS - 330-493-9904 ext 2019