New Sewage Rules  Frequently Asked Questions

Is my system grandfathered in, making me exempt from the Operation & Maintenance program?
No. Every sewage treatment system in Muskingum County will be in the Operation & Maintenance program. It will allow ZMCHD to ensure sewage treatment systems are working correctly and protect public health.

If my system is found to be broken during my assessment, will I have to replace my entire septic system?
Not necessarily. ZMCHD is prepared to work with you to salvage every system that needs repairs to work properly. Expensive repairs and replacements are last resorts and will be avoided if possible. However, we are looking to protect public health. Sewage treatment systems that are failing and pose immediate harm to human health and the environment, will need to be addressed quickly.

How often will I be inspected?
How often you are inspected depends on the type of system you have.

Can I do my own Operation and Maintenance inspections?
Yes. However, you need to be a registered service provider. You can learn more information about conducting your own inspections by contacting ZMCHD.

If I buy a home will I have to purchase a new operation permit or will the current permit transfer?
The operation permit is connected to your sewage treatment system and stays with the system. If you buy a home that has an operation permit, you will not have to buy a new permit immediately, but will need to renew it when it expires.

How can I prepare for?
--If you haven’t in the last five years, we recommend having your sewage tank pumped. For a list of registered sewage haulers, contact ZMCHD.
--While not required, installing risers and lids on your system will allow your inspector to get a better look at your system and verify its physical and working condition. For a list of installers, contact ZMCHD.
--Lastly, it is helpful to verify all the plumbing that goes to your sewage treatment system. Washing machines, toilets, showers, and sink drains are all examples of what should be draining to your sewage treatment system. Sump pumps and water softeners are things that should NOT drain to your system.