

**GEAUGA COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT  
RULES FOR LAND APPLICATION OF SEPTAGE**

These rules are developed under the Ohio Department of Health Sewage Rules Section 3701-29-20 and known as section 3701-29-26.

All land application and transportation of septage must comply with rule 40 C.F.R. 503 as outlined under the Federal USEPA.

**Section I. Method of Application**

Septage (the contents of septic tanks or home aeration units serving a one, two or three-family dwelling) may be applied through the following methods:

- A. Injection- Injection (under pressure) into the soil.
- B. Land Spreading- The spreading of a thin layer of septage onto the surface of the ground from a vehicle equipped with a mechanism to disperse the septage over a large area.
- C. Trench and Bury- The placing of septage in excavated trenches which are then backfilled with earth cover within 24 hours.

**Section II. Permits**

- A. A permit must be obtained for each site. The permit will be in effect from January 1 through December 31 each year and must be renewed annually. The fee will be set forth by the Geauga County Board of Health.

**Section III. Site Plan Submission**

Prior to Geauga County Health District approval of a land application site, the following must be submitted to the Geauga County Health District:

- A. A scaled drawing showing the following:
  - a. All property lines with owner's names within 500' of the site.
  - b. All house and water supply locations within 500' of the site.
  - c. Access roads to the site.
- B. A scaled drawing (1 inch = 50 ft.) of the soil associations found at the site or the results of the test hole borings. Soil evaluations must be completed on every acre.
- C. A scaled drawing (1 inch = 50 ft.) showing 2 foot contour intervals (USGS maps) within 500' of the site and with the marked locations of the septage application areas, and/or any lagoons.

**Section IV. Site Isolation Specifications**

- A. Isolation Distances
  - a. 300 ft. from any occupied dwelling or public road.
  - b. 25 ft. from uphill lot lines.
  - c. 100 ft. from all other lot lines.
  - d. 300 ft. from downhill water supply sources, lakes, ponds, streams or swales.
  - e. 100 ft. from all other water supply sources, lakes, ponds, streams or swales.
- B. Flood Plains- Land application is not permitted in areas designated as 100-year flood plain.

- C. Slope- Septage may only be spread on 0-12% slopes covered with rooted vegetation, Septage that is injected or buried can also only be applied on 0-12% slopes, however, vegetation need not be present.
- D. Soils- Septage may be applied to severe, slight and moderate soils.
- E. Septage may not be land spread on the surface of those soils with less than four (4) feet of natural earth cover over bedrock or apparent water table. Septage may not be injected or buried in those soils with less than five (5) feet of natural earth cover over bedrock or apparent water table.
- F. Septage loading rates must be calculated and monitored.
- G. Septage may not be applied to land pastured by dairy animals or to agricultural produce that will be consumed by people or domestic livestock.

Section V. Lagoons

Lagoons may be used to store septage, particularly during inclement weather.

Lagoons must be designed by a professional engineer and that the groundwater is protected from any contamination.

In addition, lagoon design construction must be approved by OEPA.

Lagoons must be located so as to meet the same isolation distances as specified in Section III (A), however, lagoons must also be located at least 1000 feet from any occupied dwelling.

Section VI. Operation Requirements

- A. All trucks must be clearly marked with name and phone number.
- B. Signs must be posed at the site indicating who uses the location for land application.
- C. There shall be no spreading of septage after 10:00 p.m.
- D. Gates must be installed at the entry to limit accessibility.
- E. All sites shall have a spreading device which can be attached to all trucks that will assure that the septage will be evenly distributed.
- F. All septage must be stored, handled and applied in a manner that will not allow a nuisance condition to develop, (e.g., surface run-off, surface water or groundwater pollution, excessive odors or machinery noise).
- G. Septage may not be applied to fields already saturated with septage or on snow or ice covered fields.
- H. Any corporation, company, governmental agency, or individual proposing to apply septage by the aforementioned procedures must be registered to do so by the Geauga County Health District.
- I. If an imminent public health nuisance is found, the application site may be closed immediately and a Board of Health Administrative Hearing will be held within a timely manner.
- J. All pumping receipts must be submitted to the Geauga County Health District within 30 days of service.

K. All sites must have at least 3 sample wells 50 feet down-hill of application area, if testing is necessary.

All other rules found in section 3701-29-20 apply as well.