

# Info for homeowners

## Operation and Maintenance of Home Sewage Treatment Systems



**Lorain County  
Public Health**

### About the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Program

#### What is O&M?

Lorain County Public Health (LCPH) works to protect people and the environment by making sure that Home Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS) work as designed - if HSTS don't work properly, they may negatively impact local watersheds by adding bacteria and pollution. LCPH is responsible for overseeing the proper maintenance of more than 20,000 HSTS many of which we have limited information about.

All homeowners with a HSTS in Lorain County are required to have an O&M permit issued by LCPH:

- Newly enrolled homeowners will receive a 3 year permit.
- LCPH will send permit information and invoice to homeowners in December 2023.
- The permit fee of \$120 are due by January 31, 2024.

### What do I need to do as a homeowner?

#### Step 1: Check to be sure your HSTS's information is correct.

Scan the QR code or go to [bit.ly/HSTSdatabase](https://bit.ly/HSTSdatabase).



 **Step 2 - Go Green:** Opt in to paperless communications and billing. Get your future communications by email, fill out [bit.ly/sewageform](https://bit.ly/sewageform).



**What's next?** The invoice will be sent by mail or email in December 2023. After payment is received, the permit and permit conditions will be available digitally at [bit.ly/HSTSdatabase](https://bit.ly/HSTSdatabase).

### More info

#### Do I need to replace or upgrade my HSTS to meet new requirements?

In most cases, no. If a HSTS is causing a public health nuisance, LCPH will work with homeowners on any needed repairs, upgrades, or HSTS replacement. However, a properly maintained system can continue operation (regardless of age) until it no longer functions properly or until it causes nuisance conditions.

#### What is the O&M permit fee for?

The fee covers the cost of conducting an inventory of unknown HSTS, homeowner education, response to nuisance complaints, tracking of HSTS operation and maintenance data, and the administration of the O&M program.

#### How can I pay for my permit?

Payment option details will be listed on your invoice. Payment will be available online, by phone, by mail, or in person at Lorain County Public Health. Payments not received by January 31, 2024 will be charged a late fee and added to property taxes.

**Other questions: 440-322-6367**  
**[LorainCountyHealth.com/sewage](https://LorainCountyHealth.com/sewage)**