

SANITARY SEWER TIE-IN PROCEDURE

Legal requirements to connect to a sanitary sewerage system

It is required by State law that when a property is deemed accessible to a sanitary sewer, the property shall be connected within 90 days. There are several sewer authorities within Trumbull County (i.e, Cortland, Girard, Niles, Lordstown Village, Warren City and Trumbull County Sanitary Engineers' Office).

The following codes and Ohio Supreme Court ruling apply and are enforceable in a court of law.

1. The Ohio Administrative Code Section 3801-29-02 requires household sewage disposal systems to be abandoned and the house sewer directly connected to the sewerage system whenever it becomes accessible to the property.
2. The Trumbull County General Health District Home Sewage Regulations Section 3701-29-02(L) & (M) require that all building sewers be connected to a sanitary sewer system within 90 days after it becomes available.
3. The Ohio Supreme Court (DeMoise v Dowell, 1984) ruled that a local board of health possesses the authority to require a house sewer to be connected to any sanitary sewage system, when it becomes accessible to the property.

Enforcement

The Trumbull County General Health District enforces the connection requirement. The Board of Health does not possess the authority to grant variances or extensions from ordering sewer connections. If a required connection is not made within the 90-day timeframe, the health department will start its legal procedure, which consists of a Director's Hearing, then public Board of Health meeting, then charges being filed in the appropriate court of law.

What must be connected to the sanitary sewer

Any drain that carries sewage (wastewater) must be connected to the sewer. "Sewage" means any liquid waste containing animal or vegetable matter in suspension or solution from water closets (toilets), urinals, lavatories, kitchen sinks, bathtubs, laundry tubs or devised, floor drains within the interior structure, drinking fountains, or other sanitary fixtures, and may include liquids containing chemicals in solution.

What must not be connected to the sanitary sewer

Any clear water, such as roof water, foundation drains, and surface or subsurface drainage of ground water or storm water must not be connected. In some cases, plumbing changes must be made inside a building to separate clear water from wastewater. Chemicals and commercial or industrial wastes may be prohibited from being discharged to the sanitary sewer system. Interceptor devices may be required if there are oils, sand or gravel or certain other wastes involved. The Sanitary Engineer

has sole discretion regarding these requirements.

Plumbing Inspections

A plumbing inspection must be conducted prior to connecting to the sewer. The 3-part form – Plumbing Inspection for Sewer Projects – is included in the Order to Connect to Sewer letter. The current fee is \$125 for the plumbing inspection and abandonment form. Once the form is submitted to this agency, the plumbing inspector will conduct the inspection and provide a copy of the inspection form to the sewer authority. When the sewer authority has that form, the homeowner will be able to obtain their sanitary permit.

Abandonment of septic tanks

Any sewage tank that can hold sewage, must be properly abandoned. The tank(s) shall be pumped out by a sewage tank cleaner – registered with the Trumbull County Health Department and then the bottom and a side wall crushed and the tank filled to the surface of the ground with suitable material.

A tank abandonment form must be filled out by the individual performing the work on a form provided by the department and submitted to the Trumbull County Health Department, along with the pumping receipt, within 30 days of the tank being abandoned. Please note, once the sewer connection is made, the property owner is responsible to submit the septic tank pumping receipt and the abandonment form.

Who to contact

If you have received a letter from the health department ordering you to tie into the sewer, you may contact the registered sanitarian who signed your letter at 330-675-2489. You may also contact the plumbing inspector regarding questions about the inspection at 330-675-7814.

If you have questions about the cost of your permit or to request a list of drain layers, you must contact the Trumbull County Sanitary Engineer's office at 330-675-2775. If you were ordered to tie into a sewer by another sewer authority, that information is in your letter.