

## Septic System Maintenance Program

Wisconsin Administrative Code regulates all types of Private Onsite Waste Treatment Systems (POWTS) that are commonly referred to as septic systems. There are different types of systems that are installed throughout Wood County based on soil suitability and a variety of other factors. Maintenance requirements vary based on the type of system that is installed.

The Wood County Planning and Zoning Office has records for many septic systems installed between 1972 and 1980, and for all systems installed after 1980, including the type of system, location of the system on the property (plot plan) and component types. You can call the Planning and Zoning Office at 715-421-8466 to learn about the type of septic system that you have on your property and the maintenance requirements. The following is a listing of the most common system types and the maintenance that is required by Wisconsin Administrative Code and the Wood County Private Sewage Ordinance.

**Maintenance of Conventional Systems.** All property owners with a conventional septic system will receive a notice to have their system pumped or inspected at least 1 time every 3 years. Based on a variety of factors including water usage, size of the septic system, and seasonal occupancy the system may need to be pumped more or less often, however, an inspection is required 1 time every 3 years regardless. Property owners that have their system pumped or inspected more often than 1 time every 3 years and report the servicing to the County will not receive a notice from the Planning and Zoning Office because they are exceeding the minimum requirements. Pumping or inspection of conventional systems can only be completed by an individual licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a licensed master plumber, master plumber restricted service, certified POWTS inspector, POWTS maintainer, or certified septage servicing operator. ***All property owners with conventional systems will receive a bill to pay a one time \$20 fee between 2011 and 2013.***

**Maintenance of Holding Tanks.** Holding tanks are required to be pumped as needed and inspected at least 1 time every 3 years. Property owners with holding tanks do not receive any notification to have the system pumped or inspected. The frequency that holding tanks need to be pumped depends on a variety of factors including water usage, size of the holding tank, and seasonal occupancy, however, an inspection is required 1 time every 3 years regardless. Pumping or inspection of holding tanks can only be completed by an individual licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a licensed master plumber, master plumber restricted service, certified POWTS inspector, POWTS maintainer, or certified septage servicing operator. ***All property***

***owners with holding tanks will receive a bill to pay a one time \$20 fee between 2011 and 2013.***

**Maintenance of at-grade, in-ground pressure systems, and pressurized mound systems.**

All property owners with an at-grade, in-ground pressure system or a pressurized mound system will receive a notice to have their system pumped or inspected at least 1 time every 3 years. The frequency that these systems need to be pumped depends on a variety of factors including water usage, size of the system, and seasonal occupancy, however, an inspection is required 1 time every 3 years regardless. Property owners that have their system pumped or inspected more often than 1 time every 3 years and report the servicing to the County will not receive a notice from the Planning and Zoning Office because they are exceeding the minimum requirements. Some systems may have maintenance plans that require more frequent maintenance. In most cases the secondary tank should also be serviced. Pumping or inspection of at-grade, in-ground pressure systems and pressurized mounds can only be completed by an individual licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a licensed master plumber, master plumber restricted service, certified POWTS inspector, POWTS maintainer, or certified septage servicing operator. ***All property owners with at-grade, in-ground pressure systems and pressurized mound systems will receive a bill to pay a one time \$20 fee between 2011 and 2013.***

**Unpermitted Systems.** An unpermitted system is a septic system that was installed without receiving a County sanitary permit. Most systems installed prior to 1972 are considered unpermitted and in many cases little or no information regarding the system type or design is known. All property owners with unpermitted systems will receive a notice to have their system pumped or inspected at least 1 time every 3 years. Property owners that have their system pumped or inspected more often than 1 time every 3 years and report the servicing to the County will not receive a notice from the Planning and Zoning Office because they are exceeding the minimum requirements. The frequency that unpermitted systems need to be pumped depends on a variety of factors including water usage, size of the system, and seasonal occupancy, however, an inspection is required 1 time every 3 years regardless. **No systems are “grandfathered” based on age or type of system.** Pumping or inspection of unpermitted systems can only be completed by an individual licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a licensed master plumber, master plumber restricted service, certified POWTS inspector, POWTS maintainer, or certified septage servicing operator. ***All property owners with unpermitted systems will receive a bill to pay a one time \$20 fee between 2011 and 2013.***

## **Inspection or Pumping**

Pumping or inspection of any type of system can only be completed by an individual licensed in the State of Wisconsin as a licensed master plumber, master plumber restricted service, certified POWTS inspector, POWTS maintainer, or certified septage servicing operator<sup>1</sup>. On completion of the pumping or inspection, the information must be submitted to the Wood County Planning and Zoning Office by the individual that completed the service. Although the Wood County Private Sewage Ordinance requires the individual that completed the service to report it to the County within 30-days, it is ultimately the responsibility of the property owner to ensure that the County receives this information.

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<sup>1</sup> A certified septage servicing operator can do both inspections and pumping. POWTS inspector, POWTS maintainer, master plumber, master plumber restricted service can do only inspections.