



RVs and Manufactured Homes as “Temporary Dwellings”

This fact sheet summarizes which state or local agency would permit sewage treatment systems and/or disposal where one to four dwellings may be placed on a property.

The growth in the number of shale-gas related workers has significantly increased the need for temporary housing in rural areas of eastern Ohio. Just like any residence, the sewage generated from a few recreational vehicles or manufactured homes used for temporary housing on private property also must be properly treated. Understanding the regulations and working with the appropriate regulatory authority will help minimize any delays and ensure temporary housing areas are constructed and operated in a manner that will protect public health and the environment.

Sewage Treatment and/or Disposal Alternatives Authorized for Use in Ohio

Depending on the sewage treatment system to be installed serving dwellings, either the local health district or Ohio EPA will need to approve a sewage system before it can be built and put into operation. Centralized sewers or soil absorption systems protect public health, are environmentally friendly, and allowed for use in Ohio. **Holding tanks are not widely accepted for use in managing domestic sewage and their use should be avoided for the activities highlighted by this fact sheet.**

The table below summarizes a few common situations property owners may be considering related to the addition of temporary housing to their property, if the option is permissible, and which local or state agency to contact.

System Service (1)	Potentially Acceptable?	Agency with Jurisdiction
New or existing sewage systems using soil absorption (leaching trenches) serving single dwelling or RV (HSTS)	Yes	Local Health Department
New or existing small flow system using soil absorption system serving multiple dwellings/RVs	Yes	(2)
New or existing discharging system serving single dwelling/RV	No	Local Health/Ohio EPA
New or existing discharging system serving multiple dwellings/RVs	No	Ohio EPA
Holding tank serving single dwelling/RV (HSTS)	No (3)	Local Health Department
Holding tank serving multiple dwellings/RVs	No	Ohio EPA
Direct connect single dwelling/RV to sewer system	Yes	Local Sewer Authority
Direct connect multiple dwellings/RV to sewer system	Yes (4)	Ohio EPA and Local Sewer Authority

Note 1: Greater than or equal to five RVs or three manufactured homes that require licensing, see “Guidance for Temporary Housing Associated with Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Operations.”

Note 2: In areas where LHD permits small flow systems, contact appropriate LHD. Otherwise it falls under Ohio EPA jurisdiction. The list of LHDs is online at www.odh.ohio.gov/~media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/eh/STS/SMall%20Flow%20chart.ashx.

Note 3: Under unusual circumstances, LHD may authorize if, through a variance evaluation, it is determined that there would be unusual or unnecessary hardship to not allow construction of holding tank. Loss of economic gain of property owner is not what should be considered as an unnecessary hardship.

Note 4: Ohio EPA construction permit required.

RVs and Manufactured Homes as “Temporary Housing”

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Find a list of local health districts at [**www.odh.ohio.gov**](http://www.odh.ohio.gov)