

<b>Home Sewage Disposal Design Policies</b>		
	<b>Policy</b>	
<b>County</b>	<b>Home aerator systems</b>	<b>Septic Tanks with Sub-surface sand filters</b>
Lucas	Allowed for replacement systems only where there is no room for conventional, mound system, or subsurface sand filter	Allowed for replacement systems only where there is no room for conventional or mound system
Monroe	Allowed with engineered plans submitted and approved.	Allowed with engineered plans submitted and approved.
Ottawa	Limit of 10 aerator systems discharging per quarter mile on major streams; 5 per quarter mile on small continuous stream. On non-continuous streams, home aerators must have leaching tile fields, flow equalization and are limited to 5 systems per quarter mile. All home aerator systems must be maintained under a service contract.	Permitted only for existing lots and replacement systems where there is not room for a conventional system.
Sandusky	Not allowed as a new system. May be used as a replacement system under a variance.	Not allowed
Wood	Not allowed as a new system. May be used as a replacement system if a conventional design will not work.	Sand filters are allowed for replacement system, only when there is no room for a conventional system (leach field).

### **Policies**

- All onsite sewage treatment systems must be properly operated and maintained in order to protect water quality and public health.
- Conduct research and demonstration projects to determine what designs work the best long term in heavy silt/clay, shallow bedrock, and/or high groundwater soils.
- Financial assistance may be available to upgrade onsite systems on either a grant or cost-share basis. Two programs that can help individual homeowners include the USDA/Rural Development “504” program, and the HUD “CHIP” program through the Ohio Department of Development. Both of these programs have financial need criteria. Other programs may be developed on a competitive basis (e.g., US EPA §319 non-point source grants) on a special project basis.

### **Septic System Management Issues**

A primary reason why on-site sewage systems, and specifically, septic tanks and aeration systems, are not working properly is because of existing management practices. Existing agency practices and controls are inadequate for preventing the malfunctions.

Better control over the operation and maintenance of septic systems is needed. Only a small percentage of all of the home sewage systems are monitored to see if they are properly functioning. The property owner is responsible for the maintenance, inspection and replacement of any given sewage treatment device located on his property. As a result, the individual’s knowledge of the system and perceived notion of its needs for proper functioning largely determine the effectiveness of the system.

Although the average dwelling unit has a structural life of some eighty years, the useful life of a household sewage system may be twenty to twenty-five years if properly maintained. The primary causes of failure are soil clogging and hydraulic overload. Proper maintenance helps prevent failure by soil clogging. As a broad average, septic tanks should be pumped about every three years. Pumping frequencies depend on the number of people in a house, size of tank, and whether or not there is a