

Act 537 (PA Sewage Facilities Act)

This Act requires all municipalities to develop and maintain an up-to-date planning document to protect the public and the water supply.

Onlot Sewage Enforcement Program

A sewage disposal permit is required for all new sewage disposal systems. A permit is also required for any repair, replacement, or modification to an existing onlot sewage disposal system. For permits or more information, please contact our Sewage Enforcement Officer at the Lebanon County Planning Department at (717) 228-4444.

Onlot Sewage Management Program

Each municipality is required by the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt and administer an On-lot Sewage Management Program Ordinance as part of the Act 537 Program. Within these regulations [Pennsylvania Code, Title 25, Chapter 71.73 (b)(2)(i)], it is required that property owners with onlot septic systems have their septic tanks/treatment tanks pumped at least once every three (3) years or whenever an inspection program reveals that the treatment tanks are filled with solids and scum in excess of 1/3 of the liquid depth of the tank.

Property owners with on-lot sewage disposal systems are required to submit proof of pumping every three (3) years by completing and submitting a Sewage Management Report Form along with an administrative fee for each property to the North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority.

Notices are sent to property owners along with a Report Form every three years (2020, 2023, 2026, etc.). Section I of the Report Form is to be signed and completed by the homeowner and Section II is to be signed and completed by the pumper/hauler. If you misplaced or did not receive the form, please contact us prior to scheduling pumping. Systems must be pumped by a registered pumper/hauler.

To maintain accurate records of compliance with the required three-year schedule, the North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority will only recognize pumping and inspection in compliance with the ordinance if it is done in the year assigned. Treatment tank pumping performed in years other than the required year does not exempt the property owner from pumping and filing a report in the year required by the municipality. Therefore, property owners should make plans to pump and inspect their onlot sewage disposal systems in the year assigned unless necessary for the proper functioning of the system.

Although, in general, the three-year pumping and inspection requirements must be met, the Municipal Authority will consider valid requests with justification from property owners for an exemption from the current pumping cycle. There are three ways to qualify for an exemption:

1. Evaluation of Solids/Scum in the Tank

You must have a qualified inspector (someone from the approved pumper/hauler list) come out to evaluate the depth of solids and scum in the treatment tank(s). If the total depth of solids and scum is less than 1/3 the total capacity of the tank you would qualify for an exemption from the current pumping cycle. We recommend having your tanks pumped if you are close to 1/3 capacity and have a small size tank. You must complete an Exemption Application and your pumper/hauler must complete the Evaluation of Solids/Scum in Treatment Tank(s) Form. Both the application and the evaluation form must be mailed to the Township along with the administrative fee.

2. Had tank(s) pumped within the last year

We recognize that some property owners may have had their treatment tank(s) pumped within the last year. You may be given an exemption for this pumping/inspection cycle if you can show proof (receipt from pumper/hauler or completed report form) that your onlot system/treatment tank has been pumped/inspected within the last year. You must complete the Exemption Application; send it along with a copy of your receipt from pumper/hauler or completed report form and the administrative fee to the North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority.

3. New system or tank repair within the last year

We recognize that some property owners may have had their systems newly built or repaired within the last year. You may be given

an exemption for this pumping/inspection cycle if you can show proof (copy of approved sewage permit application showing final inspection for new tank) that your onlot system/septic tank has been newly installed within the last year. You must complete an Exemption Application; send it along with a copy of your sewage permit application to the North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority. This is the only exemption which you do NOT have to pay the administrative fee.

Keep links to useful documents.