



WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP ON-LOT SEWAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (SMP)

FAQs for Property Owners



Thank you for doing your part to protect the environmental health of our community.

What is Act 537?

The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537, as amended) was enacted to correct existing and prevent future problems associated with sewage disposal through the proper planning, permitting, and design of all types of sewage facilities. The sewage facilities program, the “Act 537 program,” is largely administered by individual municipalities, including County Health Departments. The program is mandated by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and is intended to help avoid the problems that can result from poorly maintained and malfunctioning sewage systems.

What is the Westtown SMP?

Act 537 requires all municipalities to develop and implement an official sewage facilities plan that addresses their present and future sewage disposal needs. **The Westtown Township On-Lot Sewage Management Program (SMP)** was established in 2013 with the requirements that all on-lot sewage disposal systems be properly maintained. The purpose of the SMP is to identify any deficiencies in existing systems and address those deficiencies to protect and improve the **health, safety, and welfare of our community.**

How can I learn more about my property’s sewage disposal system?

Contact the Chester Co. Health Dept. (CCHD) to obtain a copy of your property’s septic system drawing showing where your system components are located (usually referred to as an “as-built plan”).

How do I know if my system is in good working order?

A sewage disposal system professional can perform a system evaluation and/or you can obtain a copy of your prior SMP inspection reports from the Township.

What should I do to maintain my system in good working order?

- Regularly inspect your system and pump it as necessary.
- Do not dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks and/or toilets.
- Use water efficiently.

What are the benefits of proper maintenance?

Property owners with properly maintained systems **save money** by ensuring the longevity of the system and **protect the public health and environment** by preventing the spread of infection and disease and protecting water resources.

What are the requirements of the SMP?

Each property owner with an on-lot sewage disposal system is required to:

- ☑ **Complete the SMP inspection** of their system at least once every 3 years to evaluate ongoing conditions and maintenance needs.
- ☑ **Pump the system at least once every 3 years**, OR as recommended by a CCHD licensed Liquid Waste Hauler.

When is my SMP inspection due?

Every three years after the previous SMP inspection, installation of a new system, or any program's waiver previously granted. You **MUST** submit your completed Routine Inspection Report no later than **October 31st of the year you are due**.



What do I submit to the Township as a proof of inspection?

An SMP Routine Inspection Report **MUST** be completed by a Pennsylvania Septage Management Association (PSMA) certified inspector.

How do I know if my system passed SMP inspection?

After the submission of your report, the Township will notify you whether it passed, or if any repairs are needed. The inspector will point out problems prior to completing the report.

How long do I have to complete repairs?

Depending on the severity of problems, you will have **10 to 60 days** after your report is received by the Township to make repairs.

How often should I have my septic system pumped?

The general guideline is whenever the solids and scum layer accumulate to 1/3 of the liquid depth of the tank. **A maximum 3-year pumping interval** is the accepted standard in Pennsylvania, unless you have *a very large family, an undersized tank, or a garbage disposal*. In those cases, the 3-year interval may need to be decreased to a more frequent schedule to avoid an excessive build-up of solids.

What do I submit to the Township as a proof of system pumping?

At least one pumping receipt within a 3-year cycle **MUST** be submitted to the Township **by October 31st of the year you are due** regardless of your pumping schedule.

What is an SMP fee?

The Township's annual fee is \$24 for each property with an on-lot sewage system, billed in quarterly installments with your Township trash bill. The fee is to cover administrative costs to provide necessary personnel, tools and materials associated with the management of the SMP.

Where can I find more information?

Ordinance 2013-03 establishing the SMP, Guidance Booklet, SMP Routine Inspection Report, list of qualified inspectors & liquid waste haulers, and other resources are available at: www.westtownpa.org/onlot/

IMPORTANT:

Compliance with the On-Lot Sewage Management Program is **NOT OPTIONAL**.



**WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP
ON-LOT SEWAGE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
(SMP)**

Westtown Township
P.O. Box 79
Westtown, PA 19395
610.692.1930
smp@westtown.org