

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 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

What is the West Cocalico 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 **West Cocalico Township On-Lot Sewage Management Program (SMP)** was established in 2018 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.**



WEST COCALICO TOWNSHIP

ON-LOT SEWAGE

MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

(SMP)

FAQs for Property Owners



What is an SMP fee?

The Township's fee is \$25 payable every 3 years for each property with an on-lot sewage system. 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 139 establishing the SMP, Guidance Booklet, SMP Routine Inspection Report, list of qualified inspectors & liquid waste haulers, and other resources are available at:

www.westcocalicotownship.com

IMPORTANT:

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

WEST COCALICO TOWNSHIP ON-LOT SEWAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (SMP)

West Cocalico Township

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How do I know if my system passed SMP inspection?

The inspector will point out problems prior to completing the report when he is pumping out your tank.

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 **June 30th of the year you are due** regardless of your pumping schedule.

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.