

SANITARY SEWER TAP-IN QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

My septic tank (aerator) is working fine, so why should I have to connect to a sanitary sewer?

Even a properly maintained private sewage treatment system does not treat sewage wastes as thoroughly as a centralized sewer plant. It is also an unfortunate fact that a few property owners will not properly maintain their sewage systems or may even attempt to use a sewage system to dispose of dangerous materials. Thus, concentrations of homes served by private sewage systems are always associated with soil and water pollution.

My home has a working septic tank and a leach field. If a sanitary sewer is built that passes by my home, will I have to tap?

Whether you will have to tap depends on how far the sanitary sewer is to your home and other factors. Columbus Public Health will make an assessment on how accessible your home is to the sewer.

How does Columbus Public Health determine whether my home is accessible?

The determination is made based upon whether the sewer is legally available, the distance between the tap location and your home, and whether there are any intervening obstacles.

What determines whether a sanitary sewer is legally available?

The builder/owner of the sanitary sewer must notify Columbus Public Health that the sewer is available for tapping. Normally, the owner will be the City of Columbus, but other agencies and even private individuals may build sanitary sewers. The tap location also must be on or at least next to your property.

What about the distance between my house and the sewer?

Section 6117 of the Ohio Revised Code specifies that a home that is less than 200 feet from the right of way in which a sanitary sewer is located must connect to the sewer. A home that is more than 200 feet from a sanitary sewer right of way can be ordered to connect if a registered professional engineer designated by the health department determines and certifies that the sewer is available and accessible.

How much time do I have to tap to the sewer?

90 days is the normal time period; however, an extension of up to nine months will be granted upon request.

What does a property owner need to do to get an extension?

The owner needs to make a request in writing to Columbus Public Health and must agree in the request to tap to the sewer before the extension expires.

Questions? Call Columbus Public Health at 614-645-6754.