



# Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department

## Press Release

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### **Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department provides septic inspections**

**April 16, 2019, Parkersburg, WV** –With the arrival of spring and summer fast approaching, home construction is beginning to pick up. The Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department (MOVHD) would like to remind potential home builders that a permit is needed to install an individual septic system and/or individual water well.

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources requires local health departments to assure that sewage treatment and collection systems meet design standards. This includes individual and on-site sewage systems. The MOVHD's Environmental Health (EH) Department oversee sewage and septic systems in Calhoun, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt and Wood.

Septic system permits should be obtained prior to any construction taking place. If a person chooses to use a certified installer, the installer will conduct the percolation test and continue the permitting process. A percolation test includes digging four test holes to specifications. The holes must demonstrate adequate drainage before the septic system can proceed.

When the percolation test is completed, the owner is required to submit a septic application and fee. A permit is issued to the owner once the sanitarian has visited the site to evaluate the site, percolation holes and insure the septic system is required distance from water well, etc.

Construction may start when permit is obtained. Tank, trenches, piping, crossovers must be left uncovered until the sanitarian can inspect. The MOVHD EH requires 24-hour notification for inspections.

A homeowner may apply to install his or her own standard septic system provided they have passed the Homeowner Installer test. The manual for the Individual and on-site sewage system can be picked up at the health department. When an individual has prepared for the test, they should call to schedule a time to take the test at the health department. Upon passing the test, they can begin the process of installation.

For more information, please contact the MOVHD's Environmental Health program at 304-485-7374 ext. 160.

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