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Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Managed Septic System Information

Inspection and Pump-Out of Baseline Systems

A Managed Septic System is a baseline septic system that is inspected and pumped out every five (5) years. In October 2007, the Board of County Commissioners passed Charlotte County Ordinance 2007-06; This ordinance was amended in 2021 to include all baseline septic systems located within three hundred (300) feet, as measured from the closest point of the drainfield to a canal or other surface waters, are required to be pumped empty and inspected at least once every five (5) years.

The Florida Department of Health in Charlotte County (FDOH), Environmental Health Section is responsible for overseeing the program. According to the FDOH, a system that is pumped out every three (3) to five (5) years will perform better and last longer. Pumping a tank removes the build-up of solids which allows for a longer retention time. This allows the material to settle, thereby producing a clearer effluent (liquid waste) to leave the tank and flow into the drainfield. The benefit of having clearer effluent entering the drainfield is that it increases the longevity of the system. The solid material that makes it into the drainfield can clog the field and cause the system to fail. Pumping also lowers the concentration of sulfuric acid, which may lead to corrosion and deterioration of the tank.

Managed Systems require that the system be pumped out and inspected by a licensed contractor every five (5) years. Once billed, the property owner will need to submit the contractor's pump-out inspection certification along with the operating permit fee of \$115.00. A property owner may choose to pump out their tank more often, but those additional pump-outs cannot take the place of the one required every five (5) years with the payment.

Once you have received a bill for the Managed System program, follow these steps:

- Select a licensed septic contractor who maintains a contractors' permit issued by the FDOH. (You may wish to contact the Better Business Bureau or speak with past customers of the contractor to obtain references. It is also recommended that you obtain several estimates.)

- The property owner/owners should be present when the tank is pumped.

- Submit the pump-out receipt/certification form to the FDOH along with your operating permit payment. (Payments will not be accepted without the tank certification from the contractor.)

The FDOH will conduct a visual inspection of the system. If the system does not show signs of failure and the tank is certified as structurally sound, then a permit is issued that expires after five (5) years. The permit and inspection do not guarantee the system will function for any length of time. This inspection is only reflective of the tank's condition at the time of the inspection.



APPLICANT:	STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMEN EXISTING SYSTEM AND SY			
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REMARKS/ADDITI	ONAL CRITERIA			