



County of Gloucester
Codes Compliance Office - Environmental Programs
P. O. Box 329
Gloucester, Virginia 23061

DATE: JUNE 30, 2005
TO: PROPERTY OWNERS WITH PRIVATE SEPTIC SYSTEMS
FROM: SCOTT RAE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATOR
SUBJECT: SEPTIC SYSTEM PUMP-OUT / INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Commonwealth of Virginia, under Code Section 9VAC 10-20-120.7, and Gloucester County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance, Section 5.5-9B (5), specifies that **all on-site sewage disposal systems shall be pumped out at least once every five years**. The entirety of Gloucester County is recognized as either a Resource Protection Area or Resource Management Area qualifying all properties to comply with this program.

Enclosed, you will find an information sheet that explains the Septic System Pump-out / Inspection Program in greater detail and describes an alternative to the pump-out requirement. On the back of the information sheet, you will also find answers to several frequently asked questions regarding the program. In addition to the information sheet, you will find a verification and compliance form enclosed, which must be filled out and returned to the County (regardless of whether there is a septic system on your property) by **December 31, 2005**, as documentation that you have met the requirements of this program.

Failure to return the verification and compliance form and/or comply with the Septic System Pump-out / Inspection Program by the **December 31, 2005** deadline will be considered a violation of the Gloucester County Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance and may result in necessary enforcement action.

Questions regarding this program or other requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance should be directed to the Gloucester County Environmental Programs Office at (804) 693-1217 or srae@gloucesterva.info.

Enclosure

GLOUCESTER COUNTY, VIRGINIA
SEPTIC SYSTEM PUMP-OUT / INSPECTION PROGRAM

The Gloucester County Environmental Programs Division, as required by the Commonwealth of Virginia under Code Section 9VAC 10-20-120.7 and in accordance with Section 5.5-9B (5) of the County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance, has initiated a notification and enforcement program requiring that all on-site sewage disposal systems (septic systems) be pumped out at least once every five (5) years. Septic system owners may elect, as an alternative to this pump-out requirement, to submit documentation from a licensed sewage handler explaining that the system has been inspected, is functioning properly, and does not need to be pumped out.

In implementing this program, efforts have been made to only notify the owners of property believed to contain an on-site sewage disposal system (septic system). Once initially contacted, septic system owners will be re-notified on a recurring basis (once every five (5) years) regarding their need to comply with this program.

Affected property owners must have their septic system pumped out by a licensed sewage handler (or exercise the inspection alternative) and return the attached verification and compliance form to the Gloucester County Environmental Programs Office by **December 31, 2005**.

Verification and Compliance Form

The attached Septic System Pump-out / Inspection Verification and Compliance Form must be filled out, signed, and returned to the following address:

Gloucester County Environmental Programs Office
P. O. Box 329
Gloucester, Virginia 23061

In order to verify that your septic system has been pumped out, please attach a copy of the pump-out receipt and/or cancelled check made out to the licensed sewage handler who performed the pump-out.

If you have chosen to have your septic system inspected by a licensed sewage handler as an alternative to having the system pumped-out, please submit a copy of the *inspection receipt* and the enclosed verification and compliance documentation signed by the licensed sewage handler verifying that the system "has been inspected, is functioning properly, and does not need to be pumped out."

Contact Information

Questions regarding the Septic System Pump-out / Inspection Program should be directed to the Gloucester County Environmental Programs Office at (804) 693-1217 or srae@gloucesterva.info.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY, VIRGINIA
SEPTIC SYSTEM PUMP-OUT / INSPECTION PROGRAM

VERIFICATION AND COMPLIANCE FORM

**This form must be completed and returned to the Gloucester County
Environmental Programs Office, P. O. Box 329, Gloucester, Virginia 23061,
no later than December 31, 2005.**

Name _____ MAP: _____

Address _____ RPC: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Verification

1. Is there a septic system located on your property? Yes No
If the answer is No, STOP here, sign and date the form, and return it to the Gloucester County Environmental Programs Office.

2. Is there more than one septic system located on your property? Yes No
If the answer is Yes, make copies of this form and complete one copy for each system.

Compliance

3. Date of septic system pump-out: _____
If you have chosen to have your system inspected as an alternative to pump-out, answer "not applicable."

4. Has the septic system been inspected by a licensed sewage handler as an alternative to pump-out?
 Yes No

If Yes, has the licensed sewage handler determined that the system is functioning properly and does not need to be pumped out? Yes No

Documentation

If the septic system has been pumped-out, please attach a copy of the pump-out receipt and/or cancelled check made out to the licensed sewage handler who performed the pump-out.

If the septic system has been inspected by a licensed sewage handler as an alternative to pump-out, please attach a copy of the pump-out receipt and/or cancelled check made out to the licensed sewage handler who performed the pump-out. Have the licensed sewage handler sign below verifying that the system "has been inspected, is functioning properly, and does not need to be pumped out."

Property Owner

Date

Septic Hauler / Business Name / Permit Number

Date of Inspection

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Why am I being required to have my septic system pumped out or inspected before the septic tank is full?**

Research has shown that failing septic systems contribute considerable amounts of pollution to groundwater and the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. By having your septic tank pumped before it is full, the number of solids leaving the septic tank and migrating into the drainfield is greatly reduced, allowing your drainfield to function as designed for a much greater length of time.

- 2. Who do I contact to have my septic system pumped out or inspected?**

You may contact any sewage handler licensed to operate within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Please refer to the telephone directory yellow pages under "Septic" for contact information.

- 3. If I have had my septic system pumped out within the last five (5) years, do I need to have it pumped out again in order to comply with the County's pump-out program?**

No. If your septic system has been pumped out within the last five (5) years (since January 1, 2001), you only need to fill out the enclosed verification and compliance form and attach a copy of a receipt, cancelled check, or other documentation signed by a licensed sewage handler, noting when the system was pumped out.

- 4. What if I have multiple septic systems on my property?**

If you have more than one (1) septic system located on a single parcel of land, you will need to make copies of the verification and compliance form for that parcel and complete one (1) copy of the form for each system.