

HOWE TOWNSHIP
Forest County

SITUATIONS REQUIRING SEWAGE PERMITS
Todd Fantaskey, Sewage Enforcement Officer – 814/723-3775

Sewage permits are required for:

1. All new residences, regardless of the acreage involved. There is an exemption for tracts that are 10 acres and larger, unless the municipality requires a permit by ordinance. To qualify for the exemption, the property must have been owned prior to January 10, 1987 and the proposed dwelling must be for the owner of the property or blood relatives.
2. All repairs to existing systems (tank and field replacements).
3. All commercial developments (including State and Federal Governments).
4. All new and/or replacement privies (useful for camps that do not have water under pressure in the dwelling).
5. All lots in previously approved subdivisions.
6. Existing systems that have been abandoned for more than one year (these systems need certification before reconnection is allowed).
7. All proposed subdivisions require evaluation and approval for sewage suitability, and ultimately the approval by the Township, Forest County Planning & Zoning and DEP (sewage permits can only be issued after subdivisions have been approved by the three agencies).

Sewage permits are not required where:

1. There is a proposed addition to an existing structure that already has a sewage system in place. The sewage system can be a conventional system (in ground, sand mound, IRSIS or other permitted system) or a privy where there is not piped water under pressure within the dwelling. If there are known sewage problems the Supervisors can request that the system be approved before building permits for expansion are issued.
2. There is a dwelling that is proposed to be replaced with another dwelling, and the existing dwelling has not been abandoned or deteriorated to the point that that it could be considered abandoned. If there is a known sewage problem or the Supervisors want the system approved before reuse that is appropriate action. If the structure has deteriorated to the point that it presently is not livable, a sewage permit is essential before issuing a building permit.
3. Generally, small additions and things such as porches and sheds that would not involve sewage.