



## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Environmental Health Division

*The following is intended to be a guide for homeowners who are required by law to have a maintenance contract with a certified subsurface operator for their on-site wastewater system.*

### **Homeowners Guide:**

### **Maintenance of the Pre-treatment Drip Sewage Disposal System**

#### **What should my certified subsurface operator be doing at the time of the inspection?**

- The operator should contact the homeowner and inform them that the inspection is due. If at all possible, the homeowner should be at home to meet with the operator.
- The operator should have a copy of the sewage disposal permit showing the system layout and design criteria for the sewage disposal system.
- The operator should check the septic, re-circulation, and pump tanks for water infiltration and root intrusion around the inlet and outlet pipes, all seams, and where the risers connect to the tanks.
- The operator should check the sludge level in all tanks to determine if the tanks need to be pumped.
- The operator should check the filters in the septic and re-circulation tank and all unions, fittings, valves, and floats in the re-circulation and pump tank.
- The operator should inspect the electronics and soundness of the control panel(s).
- The operator should check the pre-treatment unit for water infiltration, ponding, spray pattern, dosing time, and media integrity.
- The operator should determine if any sewage is surfacing in the drainfield area. Also, the operator should determine if surface water is being diverted over the drainfield area instead of around or away from the drainfield. The operator should measure the gallons per minute the pump is able to deliver to each zone of
- the drainfield. The operator should compare this measurement to the start-up measurement.
- The operator should determine the presence and condition of the supply lines, return lines, air vents, Schrader valves, and turf-boxes.
- Once the inspection is completed the operator should give the owner a detailed copy of the inspection sheet. If the operator does not send a copy of the inspection sheet to the owner, then the owner should call the operator to request a copy. Remember, you are paying for this service, so make sure you get a copy of the report so that you can stay on top of any maintenance issues.
- Once a year the influent and effluent should be collected for analysis.

*The inspection should take between 60-120 minutes depending upon how many employees are with the operator. If you have any questions, please call the Chatham County Environmental Health Office at 545-8375*

**Leading the Charge to a Healthier Chatham**

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