

Ways to Qualify for an Exemption from the Requirements of the Sewage Management Program

To maintain accurate records of compliance with the required three-year schedule, the municipality and the Lebanon County Planning Department will only recognize pumping and inspection in compliance with the ordinance **if it is done in the year assigned**. Treatment tank pumping performed in years other than the required year does not exempt the resident from pumping and filing a report in the year required by the municipality. Therefore, property owners should make plans to pump and inspect their onlot systems in the year assigned unless necessary for the proper functioning of the system.

Although, in general, the three-year pumping and inspection requirements must be met, the municipality and the Lebanon County Planning Department will consider valid requests with justification from property owners for a reduction in pumping frequency. There are three ways to qualify for an exemption from the current pumping cycle:

1. We offer an alternative to pumping which is having a qualified inspector (someone from the pumper/hauler list) come out to evaluate the depth of solids and scum in the treatment tank(s). If the total depth of solids and scum is **less than 1/3** the total capacity of the tank you would qualify for an exemption from the current pumping cycle. We recommend having your tanks pumped if you are close to 1/3 capacity and have a small size tank. You must complete an Exemption Application; send it along with the form for evaluating the solids and scum in treatment tanks (which the pumper/hauler must fill out) and the thirty dollar (\$30) administrative fee to our department.
2. We recognize that some property owners may have had their systems pumped **within the last year**. You may be given an exemption for this pumping/inspection cycle if you can show proof (receipt from pumper/hauler or completed report form) that your onlot system/treatment tank has been pumped/inspected **within the last year**. **The exemption will only be granted for the first cycle**, so be prepared to follow the municipality's schedule thereafter. You must complete an Exemption Application; send it along with a copy of your receipt from pumper/hauler or completed report form and the thirty dollar (\$30) administrative fee to our department. If you had your tank(s) pumped within the last year and this is not your first cycle, please have the pumper/hauler complete the required report form and send it to us with the thirty dollar (\$30) administrative fee.
3. We recognize that some property owners may have had their systems newly built or repaired **within the last year**. You may be given an exemption for this pumping/inspection cycle if you can show proof (copy of approved sewage permit application showing final inspection for new tank) that your onlot system/septic tank has been newly installed within the last year. You must complete an Exemption Application; send it along with a copy of your sewage permit application to our department. This is the only exemption which you do NOT have to pay the thirty dollar (\$30) administrative fee.

If you fall in one of these categories, contact the Lebanon County Planning Department for an exemption application. Please be reminded that you are only exempt from having your septic tank pumped, you are NOT exempt from having to pay the thirty dollar (\$30) administrative fee unless you have had a new tank installed within the last year.