



SELLER GUIDE

Septic System Information



On-site wastewater treatment septic system

Courtesy of Crowe Septic & Plumbing

You are the owner of your own Onsite Wastewater Treatment System. It is essential to maintain your system to ensure it continues to function as designed. Keep in mind that maintenance is minimal compared to the cost of repairs or replacement.

It is important for you to have a copy of your system permit. This is the construction design and layout of the entire system. If you don't already have one, you can obtain a copy of the permit (system design and layout) from your local Health Department.

Your system area is to remain clear and open. Do not build on it or plant trees or shrubbery on it. Please contact your Health Department for advice prior to planning any project prior to be advised.

It is important for you to know the exact location of your system. Your system should be inspected once a year. It is better to be safe than to experience a raw-sewage backup in your home.



Pump Out Septic Program

Courtesy of Franklin County, Virginia

Smith Mountain Lake is a resource of great importance to Franklin County and the surrounding region. Franklin County is doing its part to assure that the lake remains an economic and recreational benefit to its citizens through various programs and planning initiatives.

In recent years there has been concern about malfunctioning or poorly maintained septic systems and the adverse effects they may have on lake water quality.

In an effort to reduce the risk of sewage contamination reaching Smith Mountain Lake, **Franklin County has adopted an ordinance requiring the inspection or pump-out every five years of any septic system that is located within 500 feet of the shore of Smith Mountain Lake.**

For additional information and copy of the ordinance, visit <https://www.franklincountyva.gov/332/Septic-Pump-Out-Program>.



REGISTRATION PROCESS

You must register any septic system located within 500 feet of the shoreline of Smith Mountain Lake. The Registration Form (PDF) must be filled out and returned with a \$35 registration fee. See the form for further instructions.

WHEN DO I PUMP?

When registered, your septic system must be pumped or inspected within 5 years of the last verifiable pumping date or, for new homes, within 5 years of the date of the certificate of occupancy. If your septic tank has not been pumped in 5 years or you are not able to verify pumping that may have occurred within the last 5 years to the county's satisfaction, you must have your septic tank pumped as soon as possible.

Once your septic tank has been pumped, you must forward a copy of your receipt to Department of Planning and Community Development. You will then be responsible for having your system pumped at 5 year intervals from the last verified pumping date.

WHO CAN PUMP OR INSPECT MY SEPTIC SYSTEM?

You may contract with any septic service company provided that they are certified by the Virginia Department of Health to pump and inspect systems. A number of area service companies can be found online or in the phone book.

I CAN'T FIND MY SEPTIC TANK!

If you need assistance in locating your septic tank you may contact the Virginia Department of Health office located in Rocky Mount at 540-484-0292 or call an approved septic system service company.

I'M BUILDING A WATERFRONT HOME RIGHT NOW. DO I NEED TO REGISTER?

New septic systems associated with new construction in areas meeting the ordinance criteria must also be registered. Those septic systems will be registered as part of the land use permit application process.

I'M NOWHERE NEAR THE WATER!

If you have received a registration package from the County but you believe that your septic system does not meet the criteria for inclusion in this program, you must provide satisfactory documentation that will show your system is greater than 500 feet from the water at full pond.

Accepted forms of documentation indicating the location of a septic system include but are not limited to:

- Copy of a land survey performed by a licensed professional surveyor or engineering firm
- Copy of Health Department records confirming the location of the septic system
- Letter from a certified sewage handler that shows the location of your septic system and its exact distance from the lake.

To view your land parcel in relation to Smith Mountain lake please visit the [Franklin County GIS web site](#). You can use the ruler in the tool bar to get a rough measurement. In some instances, a site visit by department officials may be required to verify the distances once your septic system has been located.

I JUST NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT THIS

For additional information or guidance regarding this program, please contact the Department of Planning and Community Development at 540-483-3027, or you may visit the office at 120 East Court Street in Rocky Mount.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [Franklin County Pump-Out Program](#)
- [Maintaining Your Septic System: A Guide for Homeowners](#)

Pump Out Septic Program

Courtesy of Bedford County, Virginia

Well and Septic Permits are issued by the Bedford County Health Department when public water and/or sewer is not available, or if alterations or repairs are made to existing systems.

A **Modification Permit** is required when new structures, additions or enlargements are proposed on properties with an existing well or septic system, or if additional connections are made.

Bedford County requires septic systems for short-term rental properties be pumped out every five years.

For more information call (540) 586-7952, or visit at 600 Bedford Ave., Bedford, VA 24523.

Visit the Bedford County website for additional details.

