

KNOW THE FACTS!

HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS & POWER OUTAGES

For more information, contact the Water Quality Division at 513.946.7862 or visit www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org.

For those who live in unsewered areas of Hamilton County, waste from their homes is treated by a household sewage treatment system. There are two different types of systems — one is an aeration unit that uses electricity to run the motor and aerate the waste. The other is an onsite/non-mechanical system. Some of these systems use electricity for the pump in the dosage chamber. If the chamber fills with waste without being treated and moved on to the next chamber, untreated sewage can back up into the house or yard. These units come in many shapes and sizes, and have different brand names. The principle operation is basically the same, however — air injected into sewage provides agitation and oxygen which allows bacteria to reduce organic waste to carbon dioxide and water.

Aeration units and some onsite/non-mechanical systems operate with electricity, unless connected to another power source, such as a back-up generator. During power outages, residents with household sewage disposal systems should be aware that they may need to take some extra precautions.

What should I do when the power goes out?

- **Aeration Unit**
Conserve water until power comes back on.
- **Onsite/Non-mechanical System**
Conserve water. You may also want to check the water level in the dosage chamber to be aware of capacity left in the chamber.

What should I do when the power comes back on?

Check all electrical components of your sewage system to make sure all parts are working properly. Also check circuit breakers to make sure there are no blown fuses.



**HAMILTON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**

PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

250 William Howard Taft Road, 2nd Floor
Cincinnati, OH 45219
Phone 513.946.7800 Fax 513.946.7890
hamiltoncountyhealth.org