Cecil County Health Department-Environmental Health
Residential new construction

Properties served by an onsite well and/or an onsite septic system:

Prior to approval of a building permit involving onsite sewage disposal, a satisfactory percolation test must be on file. Some soils require testing during the time of year that water tables are at their highest, typically February through April. A surveyed plat (in many cases, the same plat that is required by Public Works for grading) must be submitted and approved showing percolation holes, the defined sewage area, the proposed house location, a proposed well location, topography, any proposed grading, and stormwater management devices.

If the building lot is in the Chesapeake Bay Drainage Area (most of Cecil County except east of Appleton Road), a nitrogen reducing BAT treatment unit is required to be installed. The homeowner is also required to prepay operation and maintenance of the BAT unit for the first 5 years.

Our office strives to review and process plans within 2 weeks, but longer delays may occur during the seasonal percolation test period or during high demand.

Properties served by public water and/or public sewer:

For residential building lots served by public water or sewer, the Health Department will contact the water and sewer utilities to determine if a water or sewer allocation has been granted. Most new subdivisions obtain allocations at the time the lots are recorded. Some lots in older subdivisions may need to receive individual allocations. If you have a question as to whether your lot has an allocation, please contact the utility.

If a property is mapped by the Cecil County Master Water & Sewer plan as in an area served by public water or sewer and the property is not to be connected, the utility must provide a written notice that public water or public sewer is not available to the property for the Health Department to review. If a property is not mapped as in an area served by public water or public sewer, it may not connect to the utility.

If you have any questions regarding the requirements of the Health Department or would like to discuss a proposal before a building permit is applied for, please do not hesitate to call us at 410-996-5160.

Requirements as of 9/30/2015