

Many homes throughout Stark County have a type of septic system that requires the use of an aerator. There are many types of aerators in use, but all follow the same basic principles.

1. An aerator requires the use of a motor to bring air into the system and create good bacteria known as aerobic bacteria. This bacteria breaks down sewage, producing a clean effluent. If you have an aerator, check often to ensure that the motor is running properly. You should be able to hear your aerator when standing beside it, and you can also feel vibrations if you put your hand on it.
2. An aerator cannot do its job unless it is turned on. With little exception, aerators are designed to run continuously and should not be turned off or allowed to run off of a timer. An aerator that is not permitted to run is most likely discharging raw sewage and is a hazard to public health. Accordingly, this would also be a violation of state and local laws.
3. A properly functioning aerator also requires regular maintenance. Service contracts are available from the aerator's registered service provider(s). A list of registered service providers is available at <http://www.starkhealth.org>. Remember that even with the motor running, lack of maintenance will cause the system to discharge poorly treated effluent.
4. Never bury your aerator lids. The lids are necessary to access your aerator to perform maintenance, and also important to bring air into the aerator which sustains the good aerobic bacteria.

Within the Stark County Health Department's Phase II Stormwater Program, septic systems (including aerators) are being checked to ensure that they are functioning properly. This includes confirming that the motor is running, the effluent quality is acceptable, and the system is operating as designed. If you have any questions regarding your aerator or septic system in general, please contact the Stark County Health Department and ask to speak to a Phase II Stormwater Specialist.

