

## **Will all systems be required to meet current code?**

No. It is not the intent of this program to cause existing functional systems to be brought into compliance with current sizing and construction codes.

Systems will only need to be replaced if they are found to be failing or in substantial non-conformance. For example, if sewage is surfacing on the ground, or connected to a field tile, then the system is failed. A well that is unable to provide safe water or its condition is so poor that continued safe water cannot be relied upon, is failed.

## **How do I find the results for my home?**

As soon as the property receives a completed Transfer Authorization, the results are available on-line without a login or password at:

<http://tost.barryeatonhealth.org/tost>

The results are available on-line for one year. Site observations, water results, and system diagrams are also available.

Additionally, check the BEDHD web site for information regarding the operation and maintenance of on-site systems.

FROM:

TO:

# **Selling or buying a home in Barry or Eaton County?**



## **What you need to know about the program referred to as TOST.**

The **Time Of Sale or Transfer** program for the evaluation and maintenance of on-site water wells and on-site sewage systems.

**Barry Co. Office: 269-945-9516 ext. 35**  
**Eaton Co. Office: 517-543-2430 ext. 25**

[www.barryeatonhealth.org](http://www.barryeatonhealth.org)

## About the TOST Program

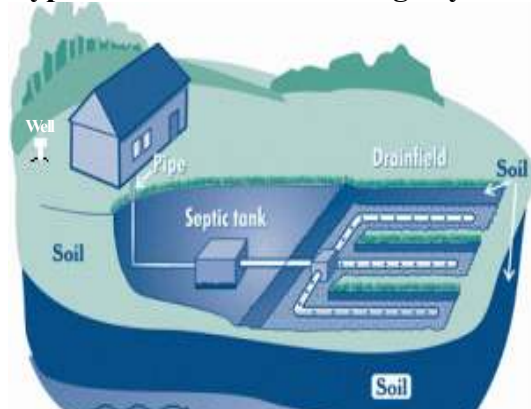
If you sell or transfer your property and you have an on-site well or on-site sewage system, you are **required** to have an evaluation from a registered private evaluator.

This program became effective November 1, 2007. This is part of the Regulations Governing On-site Sewage and On-site Water Supply System Evaluation and Maintenance in Barry and Eaton County, Michigan, as adopted by the Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD) Board of Health.

Homes that are connected to both municipal water and municipal sewer are not affected.

This program does allow for some exemptions. Contact the BEDHD for more information, or visit the TOST section of [www.barryeatonhealth.org](http://www.barryeatonhealth.org)

### Typical Water Well & Sewage System



## Why is this necessary?

A failing well or sewage system is an immediate public health concern. The purpose of this program is to promote the safety, health and general welfare of the community by:

- Ensuring safe and adequate supply of drinking water for premises served by an on-site water supply.
- Ensuring the adequate disposal of sewage from premises served by an on-site sewage system.

Examples of a failed water supply include unsafe water quality, improperly abandoned wells, and dug wells.

Examples of a failed septic system include sewage surfacing on the ground, systems connected to drain tiles leading to lakes, streams, and ditches and other people's backyards.

These types of failures are now being addressed through corrective action. This program protects the public and the environment by ensuring that drinking water is safe and sewage is properly treated.

## How do I get started?

Visit us at [www.barryeatonhealth.org](http://www.barryeatonhealth.org) or call us for the Registered Evaluators list. A Registered Evaluator can perform an evaluation of your on-site systems.

## After the evaluation...

1. The evaluator submits detailed findings and supporting documentation called a "transfer evaluation" to the BEDHD.
2. The BEDHD reviews the evaluation for completeness and reviews all of the evaluator's findings.
3. If the system is determined by BEDHD to be failed, a site visit is conducted. A "Notice of Failure" and a timeline for correction are issued. A suggested Corrective Action Plan is provided.
4. If the system(s) has not failed, or when corrective action has been performed and approved, the BEDHD will issue a "Transfer Authorization".

## Will this hold up my sale?

Not typically, however, plan ahead. Allow time for corrections if a failure is determined. The regulation provides for an option to transfer prior to correction if a corrective action plan is submitted to, and approved by, BEDHD. In most cases, however, the corrections are completed and finalized before a Transfer Authorization is reported. The Transfer Authorization is necessary for closing.

Since evaluation results are good for one (1) year, homeowners are encouraged to start this process when listing the home.