Division of Environmental Health

The Division of Environmental Health (DEH) protects the community from adverse health effects resulting from environmental pollution, unsanitary conditions or unsafe practices by regulation and enforcement of the following environmental health programs mandated or delegated by the New York State Department of Health, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Nassau County Public Health Ordinance and Nassau County Legislation:

- Realty Subdivisions
- On-Site Sewage Disposal/SPDES Permit
- Sewer Connections/Septic System Closures
- Homeowner’s Oil Tank Abandonment/Removal
- Gasoline, Diesel, Waste Oil, Motor Oil and Heating Oil Tanks
- Public Water Supply
- Backflow Prevention Devices
- Food Establishments
- Hotels, Motels & Other Temporary Residences
- Day Care Facilities
- Children’s Summer Camps
- Swimming Pools & Bathing Beaches

The DEH also responds to:

- General Nuisance Complaints (516-227-9715) regarding dog waste, mosquitoes, garbage, overflowing sewage, bird feeding, rats, etc.
- Heat Complaints (516-227-9715) from residents of apartments, when ambient temperatures fall below 55 degrees during the heating season (Oct 1 – May 31).
- Tobacco Related Issues (516-227-9417) Sales to minors, smoking in public places and tobacco advertising.
On-Site Sewage Disposal System and SPDES Permit (516-227-9692)
Engineering plans must be approved by this Department prior to the construction or modification of an on-site sewage disposal system for any commercial facility with a design flow of 1,000 gallons per day or more, as determined by the Department. Upon satisfactory completion of approved construction, a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit must be obtained from this Department prior to the discharge of sanitary waste into the ground.

Realty Subdivisions (516-227-9692)
A map and engineering plans must be approved by this Department prior to the construction of residential developments, including condominiums and cooperatives, of 5 or more lots or units. Methods for furnishing water supply, sewage disposal and storm drainage to the subdivision must be shown. The developer must provide information on past use of the property and environmental pollutants or hazards. Remediation/cleanup of the site is required prior to map approval.

Sewer Connections & Closure of Septic Systems (516-227-9692)
Residential and commercial facilities located in areas of the County served by public sewers must connect to the sewer. All existing septic systems, including cesspools, leaching pools, and septic tanks, located within these areas must be properly abandoned according to the Nassau County Department of Public Works and Nassau County Department of Health guidelines.

Homeowner’s Fuel Oil Tanks (516-227-9692)
Residents or their contractor must notify the Department of plans to remove or abandon any aboveground or belowground oil tanks. The required forms must be filed at least 7 days in advance of the removal or abandonment. Abandonment forms can be found on the Department’s website: https://www.nassaucountygov/DocumentCenter/View/10320

Gasoline, Diesel, Waste Oil, Motor Oil and Heating Oil Tanks (516-227-9692)
Engineering plans must be approved by this Department for the installation or modification of all gasoline, diesel, waste oil, motor oil, and heating oil tank systems at Petroleum Bulk Storage (PBS) regulated facilities. Home heating oil tanks less than 1,100 gallons do not require plans and permits from this Department.

Public Water Supply (516-227-9692)
Public water suppliers must file engineering plans and specifications and receive approval from this Department prior to the construction or modification of all public water supply facilities.

Backflow Prevention Devices (516-227-9672)
Depending on the degree of hazard posed by a facility, the water supplier may require the installation and testing of a backflow prevention device on the water service piping. Engineering plans for the installation of such devices must be submitted to the water supplier and this Department for review and approval.

Food Establishments (516-227-9717)
Food service operations open to the public, including but not limited to restaurants, delicatessens, bakeries, cafeterias, schools, day cares, food trucks, carnivals, feasts, street fairs are required to obtain a permit to operate. All new and renovated food service establishments must submit plans to this Department for review. New and expanded food establishments located in unsewered areas of the County must demonstrate that the septic system serving the facility can accommodate estimated kitchen and sanitary waste flows.

Hotels and Motels (516-227-9717)
Including but not limited to campgrounds, mobile home parks and bed & breakfast operations, are required to obtain a permit to operate from this Department. Plans must be approved by this Department prior to construction or modification of this type of facility.

Day Care Facilities (516-227-9723)
Child Day Care Facilities are licensed by the N.Y. State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). New or renovated Child Care Facilities must be approved by this Department for environmental hazards and compliance. Upon completion of the assessment, the Department issues a report to the OCFS regarding the suitability of the location and facility for use as a child care center.

Children’s Summer Camps (516-227-9717)
Applications for a permit to operate a Children’s Camp must be submitted to this Department at least 90 days in advance of the camp opening. Plans must be approved by this Department prior to construction or modification.

Engineering or architectural plans must be approved by this Department prior to the construction or renovation of a swimming pool, except those owned by an individual for the use of their own family and friends. Swimming pools and beaches are required to obtain a permit to operate from this Department. Lifeguards employed at these facilities must possess an appropriate current lifeguard certification issued by the Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation and Museums (516-572-6591).

Swimming Pools and Bathing Beaches (516-227-9717)
Prior to the demolition of a residential, commercial or industrial structure, the property owner, or authorized representative, must obtain a certificate issued by this Department stating that the premises and its buildings/structures are free of rodent infestation.

Rodent Free Certificate (516-227-9715)
Tattoo & Body Piercing Artists and Establishments (516-227-9717)
Tattoo & body piercing artists are required to obtain a certification from this Department. Establishments are also required to obtain a permit to operate. Plans must be approved by this Department prior to the construction or modification of the establishment.