



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Frederick County Health Department**

Barbara A. Brookmyer, M.D., M.P.H. ▪ Health Officer

Updated July 17, 2019

Re: Pumping of Septic Tanks From the 6  
Inch Inspection Port

Dear Liquid Waste Haulers:

It has been brought to the Frederick County Health Department's (FCHD) attention that some liquid waste haulers are routinely using the 6 inch inspection port to pump septic tanks.

The purpose of the 6 inch inspection port is to provide access to the septic tank when a problem occurs and to determine if the problem is between the facility and the septic tank or between the septic tank and the leach field.

The pipe was intentionally sized so that liquid could be pumped from the tank, but only in the case of an emergency. This would allow occupants to continue using sanitary facilities while the problem was being corrected. The 6 inch inspection port is not to be used for routine maintenance of the septic tank.

Every septic tank has an 18"- 24" manhole for routine pumping of the septic tank. This manhole provides sufficient area so that solids can be removed from all areas of the tank. The 6 inch inspection port does not!

As professionals, the FCHD expects you to advise your clients that to correctly remove the solids from the septic tank requires cleaning it from the large manhole. If the FCHD finds that any waste hauler is telling or implying to their customers that the 6 inch inspection port is to be used for routine removal of solids from the septic tank, your liquid haulers license will be suspended.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 301-600-3155.

Sincerely,  
Kimberly Dillman, Program Manager  
Well & Septic Branch

Barry Glotfelty ▪ Director

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