



RAPPAHANNOCK-RAPIDAN HEALTH DISTRICT Environmental Health Updates



**JOHN MARSHALL
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

RESIDENTIAL SEPTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

TARGET AREA:

Upper Goose Creek, Thumb Run,
Carter Run, Great Run, Marsh
Run, and Deep Run watersheds
in Fauquier County, VA

ALL PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS ARE
ELIGIBLE FOR A
MINIMUM OF 50%
COST-SHARE

** INCREASED ASSISTANCE RATE
UP TO 80% MAY BE AVAILABLE
BASED ON VERIFIED INCOME

WE OFFER



SEPTIC TANK PUMP OUTS

Funding available for pump outs at
a maximum cost-share rate up to
\$360 per tank.



SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIRS

Funding available for septic
system repairs at a maximum
cost-share rate up to \$6,000 per
system.



SEPTIC SYSTEM INSTALLATION

Funding available for conventional
septic system installation (up to
\$10,000) and alternative on-site
septic system installation (up to
\$25,200).

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TMDL PROGRAM

Protecting Water, Preserving Land: Septic Assistance Available for Fauquier Residents

The John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to support Fauquier County residents through the Residential Septic Assistance Program, a vital initiative aimed at protecting local water quality and promoting responsible soil stewardship.

Through this program, homeowners in designated watershed areas are eligible for a minimum 50% cost-share on essential septic system services, including:

- Septic tank pump-outs
- Septic system repairs
- New septic system installations

Target areas include the Upper Goose Creek, Thumb Run, Carter Run, Great Run, Marsh Run, and Deep Run watersheds.

Find out if you live in a watershed! [Virginia Watersheds Interactive Map](#) | [Northern Virginia Regional Commission - Website](#)

By participating, residents not only save money but also help safeguard the health of our streams, rivers, and groundwater for future generations.

Learn more and apply today: [John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District](#) | [Fauquier County, VA](#)

Together, we can ensure the wise use of Fauquier County's natural resources, one septic system at a time.



Virginia Campground Regulatory Update – Effective February 13, 2025

What's New?

The Rules and Regulations Governing Campgrounds have been updated to clarify requirements for temporary campgrounds; those set up for short-term events like fairs, festivals, and concerts.

Handwashing Station Flexibility:

- Portable handwashing sinks are now exempt from meeting the full water quality standards required for drinking or showering water.
- This change allows more flexibility for event organizers while maintaining public health protections.

Safety Requirement:

- If a portable handwashing sink does not use food-grade water, it must display a sign that says: **“Do Not Drink This Water”**

Why It Matters:

- Many temporary campgrounds lack permanent plumbing.
- This update helps meet sanitation needs more practically without compromising safety.

Wastewater Requirements:

- Tank Size: The wastewater tank must be at least 15% larger than the potable water tank to prevent overflow.
- Disposal: Wastewater must be emptied at an approved dump station (e.g., RV centers, municipal treatment plants) or by a permitted sewage transport service. "Pump and haul" transfers between tanks are not allowed.
- Hoses: A separate hose (different from the potable water hose) must be used for emptying wastewater.

Onboard Plumbing:

- Handwashing and Warewashing Sinks: Must have hot and cold running water under pressure.
- Water Heater: Must provide hot water at a minimum of 120°F.

Planning & Permitting:

Operators must submit (not an inclusive list):

- A plan review with scaled drawings showing tank sizes and plumbing layout
- Letters of approval for water and wastewater sources
- A menu, equipment list, and materials used for interior finishes

Food establishment applications: [Permitted Facility Inspections – Rappahannock Rapidan](#)

Other Key Requirements for Temporary Campgrounds

- 1 portable toilet per 75 campers
- Water must come from an approved source (e.g., bottled water, tested well, or chlorinated hauled water)
- Temporary camping is limited to 14 days within a 60-day period

Visit the Virginia Department of Health's official page:

www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-health/camping/campgroundregulatoryupdate



Mobile Food Units: Potable Water & Wastewater Requirements in Virginia

Mobile food units (MFUs)—including food trucks, trailers, and pushcarts, are required to meet specific health and safety standards to operate in Virginia. Among the most critical components are the potable water supply and wastewater disposal systems, which must be properly designed, installed, and maintained to protect public health.

Potable Water Requirements:

- Source: Water must come from an approved source, such as a public water system or bottled water. Well or spring water is generally not accepted unless tested and approved.
- Tank Construction: The potable water tank must be:
 - Made of safe, durable, nonabsorbent materials
 - Smooth and easily cleanable
 - Enclosed from inlet to outlet and sloped to drain completely
- Filling: A food-grade hose must be used to fill the tank
- Ventilation: Vents must be screened or filtered to prevent contamination from insects or debris.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A BAT



BATS ARE PROTECTED WILDLIFE

It is illegal for members of the public to kill, harm or keep a bat.



IF YOU FIND A BAT OUTSIDE THAT IS SICK, NOT MOVING OR DEAD

Place a box or bucket over the bat and call your local animal control to retrieve it for testing.



IF YOU FIND A BAT INSIDE YOUR HOUSE AND YOU DID NOT SEE IT ENTER

Do not release the bat. Exit and close off the room (doors and windows). If safe to do so, place a bucket or box over the bat to contain it. Keep people and pets away from the bat. In this case it is important to call your local animal control* to retrieve it for testing.



NEVER TOUCH A BAT WITH BARE HANDS

Teach children and family members to never touch a bat and to alert an adult if a bat is found on the ground or inside the house.

BATS CAN TRANSMIT RABIES

Rabies is a deadly disease to both humans and pets such as dogs and cats. Any bat that had potential exposure to a human or a pet should be collected by animal control and tested by the Department of Public Health.

RABIES RISK CONSULTATIONS

After an animal bite or bat exposure, ***CALL YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL** (*Note: if a dog or wild animal is actively attacking an individual, call 911*).

KEEP PETS INCLUDING INDOOR-ONLY CATS AND DOGS UP TO DATE WITH A RABIES VACCINATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/epidemiology-fact-sheets/rabies>

Questions? Ask us! askRRHD@vdh.virginia.gov



*ANIMAL CONTROL PHONE NUMBERS:

Culpeper- (540) 727-7900

Fauquier- (540) 347-3300

Madison- (540) 948-7042

Orange- (540) 672-1200

Rappahannock- (540) 675-5300

Bats and Rabies: What You Need to Know

Bats play a vital role in our environment, but they can also carry rabies, a deadly virus that affects both humans and animals.

If you find a bat indoors and didn't see how it got in, or if a bat is sick, injured, or dead outside, do not touch it. Instead, safely contain it using a box or bucket and contact your local animal control for guidance and testing. Always keep pets, including indoor-only cats and dogs, up to date on their rabies vaccinations. Teaching children to avoid touching bats is another important step in preventing exposure