**Vigo County Health Department**

**Homebuyers Septic Guide**

Looking to purchase a home soon? Here are some septic tips when you begin the house hunting process.

**Initial Questions to ask about a home that you are interested in:**

* Is the home on city sewer or a private sewage disposal (septic) system?
* If it is on a private sewage disposal system, does the current owner know what type of system it is and where it is located on the property?
* When was the last time that the septic tank was pumped?
* How many bedrooms does the home have?

**The next steps after gathering the basic information about the system:**

* Contact the Vigo County Health Department, to request any records that might exist for the current septic system.
* Request a home inspection or a septic inspection. Make sure the septic system is inspected by someone knowledgeable and experienced with septic systems: some home inspectors may not inspect the system, or inspect it only superficially if they do inspect it.
* Consult with the health department about the current septic system and the number of bedrooms - is the system sized accordingly? Do you plan to make any additions to the property?

Begin researching information about the septic system early in the house hunting process. Some systems may be in a state of disrepair and need to be fixed prior to closing. The sooner you learn about a home’s sewage system the more time you allow yourself to resolve any unforeseen issues. Even though the septic system is out of sight, it’s one of the most expensive appliances in your house if you have to repair and/or replace it.