If I receive notification that my septic system requires an inspection, can I appeal?

You may request in writing a hearing before the Presque Isle Township Board within 30 days of the date of notification of the need for an inspection.

What if I'm selling my property in the winter and cannot have an inspection due to the weather?

If weather makes an evaluation impossible, then an amount equal to the inspection fee should be placed in escrow with the title insurance company by the seller, to be released once notice of inspection has been received by the Township.

What happens if I don't comply?

Failure to follow the ordinance will result in a municipal civil infraction. Each day the violation remains may be a separate offense. A defendant found responsible by the judge for a violation may be fined up to $500 plus costs not to exceed $500. In addition to ordering a defendant to pay a civil fine and costs, the court may issue and enforce any judgement, writ, or order necessary to enforce the ordinance. If the owner fails to obtain a required septic evaluation, the Township Zoning Administrator may authorize the inspection and bill all related costs to the property owner.

Presque Isle Township Hall

989-595-2752

www.presqueisletwp.org

12653 E. Grand Lake Rd.
Presque Isle, MI 49777

For further questions, email:
adminassistant@presqueisletwp.org

Presque Isle Township Septic/Well Inspection and Property Transfer Ordinance

What You Need to Know

The Presque Isle Township Board of Trustees adopted the Septic/Well Inspection and Property Transfer Ordinance on May 12, 2025. This ordinance takes effect on November 8, 2025, and requires inspections of private septic and well systems when certain properties are sold, transferred, or have no septic permit. The information below answers common questions about how the ordinance affects property owners and buyers.

Do I need a septic system inspection?

1. If your home is within 500 feet of the high-water mark of a lake, river, or stream, District Health Department #4 (DHD4) must inspect your septic and private water supply systems before the dwelling can be sold or transferred to another owner.
2. If your home does not have a septic permit from DHD4 and is within 500 feet of the high-water mark of a lake, river, or stream, the septic and private water supply systems must be inspected by DHD4 by November 8th, 2026.

Are there any exemptions?

Yes. You do not need an inspection if any of the following apply:

1. A new septic system has been installed within the last 10 years.
2. The septic system was inspected by DHD4 and passed within the last 5 years.
3. The dwelling(s) will be demolished and not replaced.
4. The transfer is solely due to refinancing.
5. The transfer is between spouses only.
6. The transfer is due to adding a spouse to ownership.
7. The transfer is due to the establishment, release, or foreclosure on a secured interest.
8. The transfer is involuntary due to foreclosure or court order.

How do I know if I have a septic permit from DHD4?

You can obtain a Request for Review of Public Records from DHD4 to see if you have a septic permit. The request is free if the owner is making the request. Copies of the request form are available at the Township Hall or can be downloaded at www.dhd4.org or www.presqueisletwp.org.

Who do I contact to schedule an inspection?

You should contact DHD4 to schedule an inspection: (989) 734-4723. The Application for Existing Private Onsite Water & Wastewater System Inspection is available at the Township Hall or can be downloaded at www.dhd4.org or www.presqueisletwp.org.

How much will the inspection cost?

As of October 22, 2025, the cost to inspect your septic and water supply systems is $269. A septic-only evaluation is $150. For current pricing information, contact DHD4 at (989)734-4723. Please note, this fee does not include any costs associated with having the septic tank pumped prior to the evaluation.

Do I have to get my septic tank pumped prior to inspection?

Prior to evaluation, your septic system must be pumped and serviced by a Michigan licensed septage hauler unless your septic system has been pumped within 5 years prior.

If I'm exempt from needing a septic inspection, do I have to get a well evaluation?

A well inspection is only necessary if you are required to get a septic system inspection.

What is the timeline to get my system inspected?

Dwellings without a permit have until November 8th, 2026, to be evaluated. If a property is transferred prior to obtaining a septic evaluation, the new owner has 60 days to have the septic and water supply systems inspected. There is no timeline for any other properties.

What if the buyer has agreed to pay for the inspection and all updates necessary to bring the system(s) into compliance?

The property may not be transferred until the septic system is evaluated.

I got my septic and water systems inspected and they passed. What now?

The DHD4 septic and well evaluator will provide all necessary documentation to the Township Hall. Your property transfer may proceed.

What happens if my system fails inspection?

Your property transfer may proceed, however, a DHD4 permit for corrective action must be requested within 10 business days of the failure notification. If you had your system evaluated due to a lack of permit, the septic and water supply systems must be brought into compliance within 12 months of the date of the evaluation report.

What if DHD4 orders me to replace the septic system or make repairs and I cannot afford it?

You can negotiate with your buyer and any realtors involved in the sale. You can also apply for a loan or grant through the Michigan Septic Replacement Loan Program, USDA Rural Development Programs, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority or the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.