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.

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 of Trustees 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?

Your property transfer may proceed, provided a DHD4 evaluation application and fee are submitted before or at the time of transfer, and the transferee obtains the required evaluation within 60 days or as soon as weather conditions permit.

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

Revised 8/20/2026

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 took 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. Below are answers to common questions about the ordinance.

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 either before or within 60 days after the dwelling is sold or transferred to another owner.
2. If you are not selling your home, but your property is located within 500 feet of the high-water mark of a lake, river, or stream and you do not have a septic permit from DHD4, your septic system and private water supply must be inspected by DHD4 no later than November 8, 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 submit a Request for Review of Public Records to DHD4 to verify whether your property has a septic permit. Permit copies are free when requested by the property owner. Request forms are available at the Township Hall or online at www.dhd4.org or www.presqueisletwp.org. Alternatively, you may email DHD4 at webmaster@dhd4.org with your full name and property address. You will receive a response once your request has been processed.

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 March 24, 2026, the cost to inspect your septic and water supply systems is $375. A septic-only evaluation is $210. 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.

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 be transferred so long as the transferee obtains the required DHD4 evaluation within 60 days of the transfer. The DHD4 evaluation application and fee must be submitted before or at the time of transfer.

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?

A DHD4 permit for corrective action must be requested within 10 business days of the failure notification. You will have 12 months from the date of the evaluation report to bring the septic and water supply systems into compliance.

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

Loans and grants are available 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.