



The Wayne County Health Department's Environmental Division will make every effort within the programs it's charged to oversee to resolve public health complaints and nuisances. Violations of applicable local codes and state laws jeopardizing public health are pursued under authority of those laws and the Wayne County Board of Health.

The process pursues full abatement by holding the legally responsible party – the property owner or locally-licensed entity – accountable.

### **Some Guidelines:**

- While a particular situation may be an inconvenience or eyesore, we do not have enforcement power unless a threat to the health of the public is both validated and within our legal authority to resolve.
- The only anonymous (more below) complaints we can accept are those representing a potential widespread public health foodborne illness hazard.
- Wayne County as a whole does not have a housing inspection program. As such, the Health Department has no jurisdiction involving privately-owned residences. That includes a homeowner with mold or other problems. Rental properties also fall into that category in that we have no legal authority to intervene in a dispute with a landlord because of their failure to act on maintenance and repair. If at all possible we will make referrals to the appropriate entity. Issues with a landlord within City of Wooster limits, for example, should be directed to the city.
- We have no enforcement jurisdiction over city- or village-owned and operated public sanitary sewerage or water systems. Contact a city, village or township official for assistance.

**The Form** (other side): Please complete, sign, date and mail to us at the noted address.

- Anonymity: If you have concerns about signing the form, or becoming identified by a public records request we must honor by law, contact a trustee in your township to file the complaint. Our options to investigate, legally enter property and fully resolve are severely limited by anonymous complaints.
- We may need more information to actively investigate actionable complaints, so contact information must be provided.
- Please provide details regarding the nature of your complaint. All or part of an issue may be outside our authority, but we would have sufficient information to refer you to the appropriate agency. For example: Open dumping of scrap tires falls within our authority; you'd be advised to contact the Sheriff's Office for removal of any involved abandoned vehicles.