

How To Properly Care For Your Home Septic System!



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Understanding and caring for your home

Daily Tips For Long Lasting, Trouble-Free Service

How often should the septic tank be pumped?

Every 1 - 3 years, when the sludge in the tank is approaching the $\frac{1}{3}$ full mark. If more than this amount of sludge builds up, there is a chance that particles can get into the disposal field and clog the system. To ensure regular service, keep a maintenance record of your system.

How does the use of household water affect the system?

Conserve water. The more water that is used, the more that must be disposed of by the septic system drain fields. Buy water conserving appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines. Install water conserving showerheads and faucets. Avoid unnecessary flushing of the stool. Wash only full loads of clothes, and fix leaky faucets.

What are some of the common household habits that create problems in a septic tank?

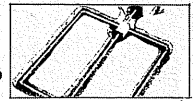
When homeowners use their septic tank as a disposal. Grease is the worst thing in a system. Coffee grounds, bones, cooking fats, filter cigarette butts, disposable diapers, paper toweling, tissues, etc., should not be put into the system.

Can a garbage disposal be used?

Garbage disposals are not recommended, because the food particles fill up the septic tank faster, and food particles tend to clog the system. If a garbage disposal is used, plan to pump the septic system twice as often or increase the tank size by $\frac{1}{3}$.

Important – Check with the health department in your community for local regulations and requirements concerning home septic systems.

What affect does rain water run off have on the system?



It overloads the system. Since all water must be disposed of, do not have storm or clear water from the basement or roof go into the sewage treatment system.

What about the use of household cleaning products?

Moderate use of bleaches, cleansers and other household products will not harm your septic tank.

Is there any special type of toilet paper required?

White toilet paper **designed for septic tank use** is best, because there are no dyes that need to be broken down in white paper.

What else can I do to protect the system?

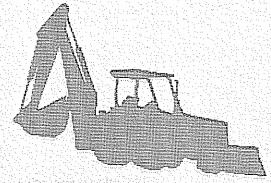
A properly designed and installed system will give you years of trouble-free service if you protect the system with **good daily habits and pump the septic tank regularly.**

What Safety Precautions Should Be Taken?

- **Absolutely never go into a septic tank.** Lethal gases build up in the tank that are overpowering and deadly. Call professionals if you have a problem with your system.
- Know where the manhole cover to the septic tank is located. It should be **earth covered or locked at all times.**
- Septic tanks that are no longer being used should be **filled with earth or rock.**

septic system . . . helps avoid problems.

How Can I Insure A Trouble-Free System When Building A Home?



Before purchasing any property, **obtain a soil boring and percolation test.** This test shows the suitability of the soil for a conventional private septic system. If the test reveals that the property is not suitable for a conventional system, you will be informed of alternate designs available. There is a charge for the test, but this investment insures you'll be able to install a private septic system on your land.

Have a professional licensed installer or engineer design and lay out your private septic system. The proper elevation, design, construction and maintenance will insure that the life of your septic system will be prolonged. Capacity is a very important consideration, and **at least a 1,000 gallon tank** is recommended for an average family home, depending upon the number of bedrooms. No part of the system should be under heavily traveled areas such as a driveway or patio.

Obtain septic tank and sanitary permits. Local regulations may require necessary permits before any building can begin. Often, you must provide a sketch or plot map of the system, showing building specifications meeting requirements such as distances from the house, well, etc.

Have a qualified, properly trained person install your system. Inspect the system regularly. Keep both a record of the complete system and a maintenance record for easy reference in the event problems occur with your system.

New Home Construction Checklist

- Obtain a soil boring and percolation test before purchasing property.
- Check with local authorities to ensure compliance with local requirements.
- Properly locate the septic system.
- Have easy access to the septic tank for pumping.

Checklist When Purchasing A Home With A Septic System

- Ask questions. Age of the system? Size of the system? Any previous problems? Ever backed into the house? Is there a maintenance record? When was the septic tank last pumped?
- Make sure the septic tank is accessible for pumping.
- Fully check the system. Locate the soil absorption field and check the grounds for seeping effluent.
- Have a professional check to make sure the septic system is properly sited.
- Determine what needs to be done, if anything, before you buy the house.

If you follow these guidelines and ask questions before you purchase or build a home, you should have a nearly trouble-free system.

What Are The Benefits Of Precast Concrete Septic Tanks?

- water tight
- proven long life
- durability - strength increases with age
- locally produced
- cold or hot weather placement
- will not corrode, rust or puncture

What Are The Components Of A Typical Home's Private Sewage Treatment System?

Septic Tank

The septic tank is a separating tank with 2 functions. The first is to separate solids from liquids. Septic tanks digest and break down solid wastes, 40% being reduced by anaerobic bacteria.

The second function is having liquids get to the drain field (trench, bed or seepage pit) where they are purified. First, liquids from the house go into the septic tank, then to the distribution box, finally reaching the drain field to be purified.

Some areas may require a two-compartment septic tank. A riser or risers may also be used to bring the tank opening closer to ground level.

Drain Fields/Absorption Systems

After being separated from the solids, the liquids which come from the septic tank (effluents) are disposed of in the soil absorption system. The effluent is purified by the soil before reaching ground water. You may need a lift pump station if the effluent cannot flow by gravity to the field.

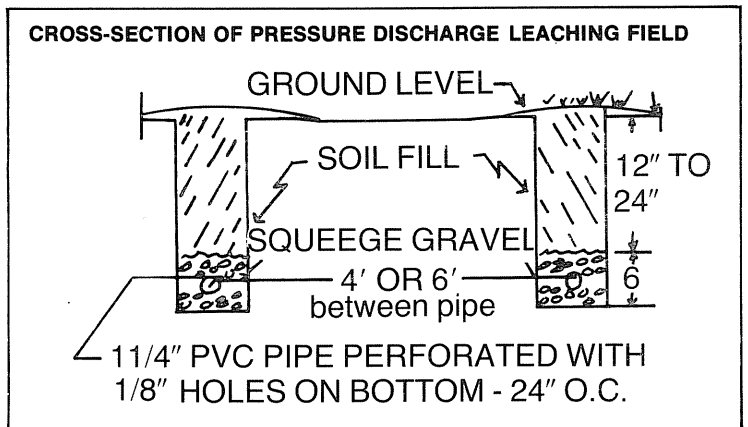
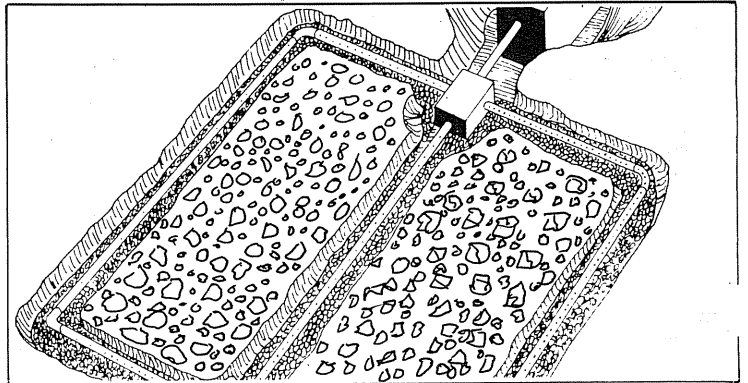
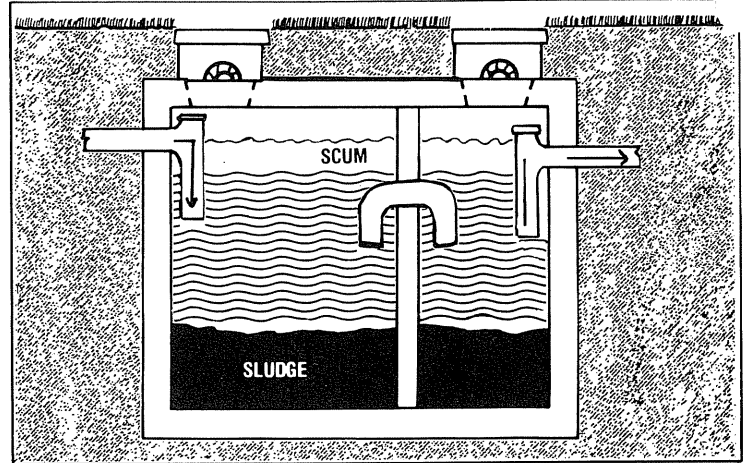
What Are Alternatives To A Typical System?

A pressure discharge system is an efficient design to dispose of septic tank effluent. This system is designed with 2 tanks for maximum cleaning of waste water.

A pump in the final compartment of the second tank forces liquid through perforated pipe in controlled doses, so liquid discharges at the same time. This spreads the liquid evenly, allowing the field to dry out between dosings.

This system is economical, non-polluting, low maintenance, and a big help to most problem sites as well. A pressure discharge system is recommended for areas with high perc. rates, high water table or unlevel ground.

The discharge can be pumped to a leaching field 25' above the pump level. The field is a closed loop with a lateral tied together. There's no compaction on trenches. All surface draining is diverted off the leaching field.



Holding Tanks

A holding tank is not a septic system. Holding tanks are used only when an onsite wastewater disposal system cannot be installed on the property due to shallow bedrock, shallow ground

water, etc. A holding tank stores all household wastes. When the tank is filled, it must be pumped, and the wastes taken to an approved disposal field or municipal treatment plant.



MEMBER

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