

ESTIMATED SEPTIC TANK PUMPING FREQUENCIES (IN YEARS) * chart developed by Karen Mancl, Ohio State University

Tank Size (gal)	Household Size (Number of People)									
	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	10.0
500	5.8	2.6	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	
750	9.1	4.2	2.6	1.8	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.3
1000	12.4	5.9	3.7	2.6	2.0	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.7
1250	15.6	7.5	4.8	3.4	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.0
1500	18.9	9.1	5.9	4.2	3.3	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.3
1750	22.1	10.7	6.9	5.0	3.9	3.1	2.6	2.2	1.9	1.6
2000	25.4	12.4	8.0	5.9	4.5	3.7	3.1	2.6	2.2	2.0
2250	28.6	14.0	9.1	6.7	5.2	4.2	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.3
2500	31.9	15.6	10.2	7.5	5.9	4.8	4.0	4.0	3.0	2.6

Managing your on-site system begins with a simple awareness of your household habits. Here are a few “Do’s” and “Don’ts” to practice.

- Do wash only full loads of laundry and spread out loads to avoid overloading your on-site system.
- Do use phosphate-free detergent to prolong the life of your system.
- Do use good quality toilet tissue that breaks up easily when wet.
- Don’t deposit coffee grounds, cooking fat, diapers, or similar material that does not easily decompose in to your system.
- Don’t use a garbage disposal unless you’re prepared to have your septic tank pumped out frequently.

Septic Tank Cleaning Tips

- Break up scum layer and stir prior to pumping.
- Stir sludge into the liquid before pumping.
- Pump through the manhole not baffle inspection ports.
- Inspect baffles at each cleanout.



Sewage Flow Rate and “Low Flow” Ideas

In consideration of the longevity and effectiveness of any septic system, reduction of the waste flow must be pursued. Therefore, water conservation should be considered when building a new home or when revitalizing an old one. Ways to achieve this is by:

- Reducing Toilet Reservoir Volume and /or Flow.
- Using Faucet Aerators or Spray Tips.
- Installing Flow Restrictors into Supply Lines of Faucets or Showers.
- Considering Water-Saving Appliances.
- Using Precision Watering/Irrigation Equipment.
- Separating Blackwater from Graywater.

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**** All the information contained in this brochure is for general use. Please contact your local health department for all county specifics and local regulations. ****

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Septic Systems



INFORMATION, TIPS & CONSIDERATIONS WHEN DEALING WITH HOME SEPTIC SYSTEMS!

Components of a Conventional Septic Tank / Soil Absorption System

Septic Tank-

A watertight container constructed of a sound, durable material that is resistant to corrosion or decay.



Baffles-

Baffles are contained within the tank and force the incoming water to circulate downward towards the bottom of the tank keeping solids from floating directly across the top. The outlet baffle keeps the scum layer from moving into the soil absorption system.

Trenches-

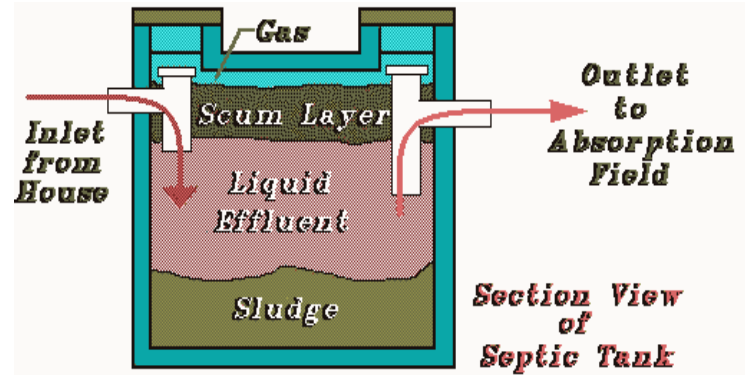
A set of trenches 18 to 30 inches deep and at least 8 inches wide are excavated to allow for the placement of a 4 inch perforated tile embedded in 8 inches of clean stone. A layer of synthetic building fabric is placed on top of the stone and back filled with native soil. These trenches clean and absorb the effluent water from the tank.

Absorption System-

Types and sizes of absorption systems are based upon the number of bedrooms in a home and the types of soils located in the area of the absorption system.

Home Site / Septic System Considerations

- Are there public sanitary sewers in place? If not, are any planned in the future?
- Does the lot meet minimum Health Dept. requirements?
- Is the lot located in a flood hazard area?
- Is the lot large enough to relocate the leach field if necessary?
- Are soils suited for a leaching – type system?
- Is there an adequate soil depth over the limiting layer?
- Is an area available for the installation of a septic disposal field?
- Is the on-lot disposal area down slope from the home so effluent can flow by gravity to the leach field?
- Have you located a source of drinking water?
- Will the lot be large enough to isolate the water supply from the sewage disposal system?
- Don't plant trees or water - loving plants near the leach field!



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Signs of a Failing Septic System

- Slowly draining sinks and toilets.
- Gurgling sounds in the plumbing.
- Plumbing backups.
- Sewage odors in the house or yard.
- Ground wet or mushy underfoot.
- Grass growing faster and greener in one particular area of the yard.
- Tests showing the presence of bacteria in well water.

Avoiding Septic System Malfunctions

- Avoid excess water use. Practicing water conservation can reduce the overworking of your septic system extending its life.
- Be careful when changing landscaping. Vehicle traffic, misdirected rain water, or paving over only a portion of the system can damage it, leading to a malfunction.
- Install risers and inspection ports to allow for quick and frequent inspections and pumping of the tank.
- Regular professional inspections. Leach lines should be inspected annually to reveal potential problems and septic tanks should be inspected every three years and pumped as needed.
- Make sure not to dispose of certain chemicals, medicines, and left over food (such as greases) into your septic system.
- Remember your system has an expected life-span much like the shingles on a roof.

SYSTEM	SOIL CONSIDERATIONS	EXPECTED MANAGEMENT
Septic Tank and Leach Field	Deep, permeable soil. At least 66" to limiting layer. From 3 to 60 min./inch Percolation rate.	One inspection per year . Alternate fields. Tank pumped as needed.
Septic Tank and Mound System	Shallow and /or slowly permeable soil. At least 12' to limiting condition. From 3 to 120 min./inch percolation rate.	Two inspections per year. Flush lateral lines. Maintain/replace pump. Pump septic tank as needed.
Septic Tank and Sand Bioreactor / Disinfection With Onsite Irrigation	Very shallow and/ or very slowly permeable soil. At least 12" to limiting condition	Two inspections per year. Flush lateral lines. Maintain /replace pump. Add disinfectant. Collect and analyze effluent. Pump septic tank as needed.