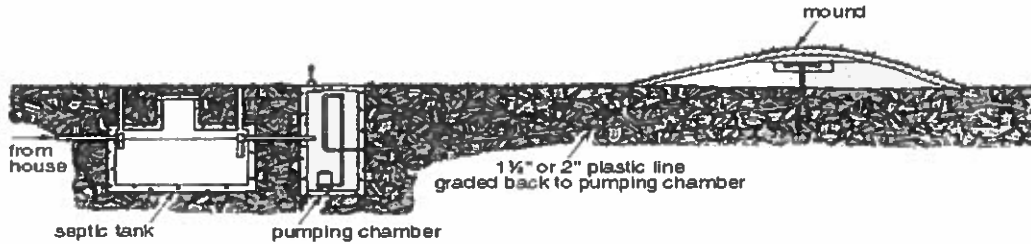


Operation and Maintenance of your Mound Sewage Treatment System



Your system includes or may include:

- a sewer line cleanout near building foundation
- a building sewer line that connects plumbing to sewage treatment system
- a septic tank and or a pretreatment device
- an effluent filter (in the septic tank)
- a dosing tank with pump and high water alarm
- a control panel
- a sand mound
- inspection ports (on the sand mound)
- lateral cleanout valves (on the sand mound)
- interceptor or perimeter drains (may pump to discharge or have gravity outlet)

Maintenance must be performed by a registered service provider. If you are the system owner and would like to service your own system, contact the health department for certification.

Operation and Maintenance Instructions

1. **Keep products that are harmful to bacteria, such as, antibacterial soaps, disinfectants, antibiotics, drain cleaners, solvents or other harmful chemicals out of the septic tank.** A bacteria kill off causes improper settling of solids and/ or a rapid accumulation of sludge which results in higher maintenance costs or worse, damage to the sand mound.
2. **Keep non-soluble wastes, such as, cigarette butts, condoms, tampons, sanitary napkins, plastics, paint, plaster or other construction wastes out of the sewage treatment system.** These products do not break down and may damage to system components or clog a filter leading to a sewage back up.
3. **Do not overload your mound system with too much water. Water conservation is necessary for any sewage treatment system.** Ways to conserve daily water usage may include: 1.) Checking for and repairing any leaking toilet flappers or faucets. 2.) Installing water saving appliances and fixtures. 3.) Taking shorter showers. 4.) Spreading laundry loads throughout the week.
4. **Divert surface and ground water away from the system.** Make sure downspouts and foundation drains discharge away from and down slope of the leaching area. Maintain perimeter drain outlets by preventing siltation and over growth of vegetation at the discharge point. Water should flow freely away from discharge point.
5. **Maintain proper grass cover over the mound and mow regularly.** Trees, bushes, or gardens should not be placed on or immediately down slope of the mound.
6. **Clean effluent filter every 6 to 12 months. Failure To Maintain Will Cause A Sewage Backup.** All septic tanks installed after 2003 should have an effluent filter installed in the exit baffle of the tank. To clean the filter:



- 1.) Remove the lids from the septic tank. 2.) Then remove the filter from the tee baffle. 3.) Using a garden hose, rinse filter allowing drainage to fall into the first compartment of the septic tank. 4.) Reinstall filter and lids.
7. **You should have the septic tank pumped out by a registered septage hauler every 3 to 5 years, or as shown in the following chart. Keep a record of all pumping and other maintenance.** Septic tanks should have risers and lids extending above grade for easy access for inspection or service. If your tank does not have a riser, installing one is highly recommended. A riser lid should be child-proof and should extend high enough above grade to allow soil to be placed around it and sloped away from the lid.

**ESTIMATED SEPTIC TANK PUMPING FREQUENCY IN YEARS
(FOR YEAR ROUND RESIDENCY)**

TANK SIZE (GAL)	NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HOME									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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
2000	25.4	12.4	8.0	5.9	4.5	3.7	3.1	2.6	2.2	2.0
2500	31.9	15.6	10.2	7.5	5.9	4.8	4.0	4.0	3.0	2.6

8. **Your system has a dosing tank, sump pump, or pretreatment device that have electrical components that need to be checked regularly.** 1.) Check the pump, floats, high water alarm, or aeration motor as applicable monthly to ensure proper operation. 2.) Check condition of wiring to all components and make repairs as needed. Replacements or repairs must be performed by a registered service provider or installer.
9. **Visually inspect sand mound annually.** 1.) Visually inspect mound for wet spots, animal burrows, proper grass cover, and missing or damaged lids and make repairs as needed. 2.) Observe sand surface through inspection ports – standing water indicates a problem.
10. **Flush laterals in mound annually.** 1.) Turn off power to pump and remove dosing tank lid. 2.) Ensure there is adequate amount of water in dosing tank – may need to add water at this time. 3.) Remove access port lids over lateral cleanouts. 4.) Remove only one screw-on cleanout cap and/or open shut off valve. 5.) Turn on power to engage pump and run pump until water exiting the lateral is free of solids. 6.) Turn off power to pump and refill dosing tank with water as needed. 7.) Close valve and/or replace screw-on cap. 8.) Repeat for all other cleanouts one at a time. 9.) Reinstall all lids. Make sure power to pump is restored when work is complete.
11. **Protect your system from damage.**
 - Do not drive over any part of the system.
 - Do not construct driveways or structures over the system or replacement area.
 - Do not allow livestock to graze over the system.
 - Do not place gardens, bushes, or trees over the system.
 - Carefully mow around system components. Replace any broken or missing lids.

PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT