



Septic System Operation and Maintenance Basics

- The contents of the septic tank should be pumped every two to three years or when the total depth of sludge and scum exceeds one-third of the liquid depth of the tank. If the tank is not cleaned periodically, the solids are carried into the absorption field; rapid clogging occurs; premature failure follows; and finally, the absorption field must be replaced. Pumping your septic tank is less expensive than replacing your absorption field.
- Detergents, kitchen wastes, laundry wastes and household chemicals in normal amounts do not affect the proper operation of household sewage treatment systems. However, excessive quantities can be harmful.
- Avoid the disposal of cigarette butts, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, plastics, trash, wipes, rags etc., into your household sewage system. These items are not readily decomposed.
- Septic tank additives are not recommended. Additives are unnecessary to the proper operation of household systems and may cause the sludge and scum in the septic tank to be discharged into the absorption field, resulting in premature failure. Some additives may actually pollute groundwater.
- Garbage grinders substantially increase the accumulation of solids in the septic tank, as well as the solids entering the absorption fields and pits. Their disadvantages outweigh the convenience they provide and are not recommended for households with their own sewage treatment systems. If used, the septic tank size should be increased or a second tank installed after the first along with an effluent filter.
- All roof, cellar and footing drainage, and surface water must be excluded from the system. This drainage water can be discharged to the ground surface without treatment; make sure it drains away from your sewage treatment system.
- Roof downspouts should not drain toward the absorption field.
- Backwash from water softeners and/or iron/manganese removal equipment may be discharged to a separate system.
- Roots from trees in the immediate area of the absorption lines may clog the system.
- Keep swimming pools (above or in-ground) away from the absorption field.

Contact us at 856-358-4771 for additional information on proper operation and maintenance procedures. You can also order maintenance services on line at www.englishsewage.com.