

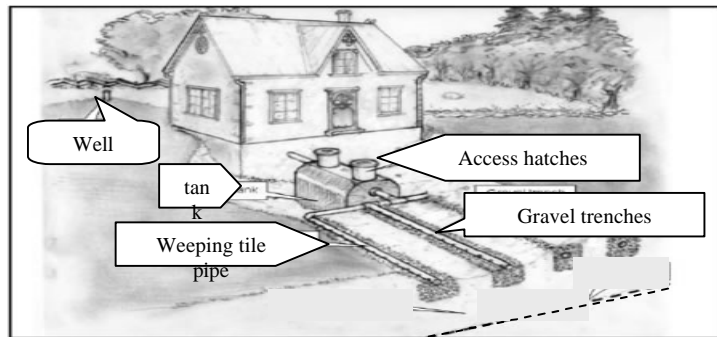
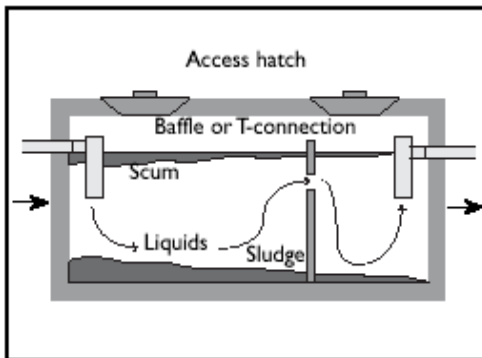


Septic Systems – Bringing the Facts to the Surface

Your septic system, even though it appears invisible, is the home's, most important and integral component. The following information will help to keep a septic system operating efficiently, and trouble free for many years.

Septic tanks should be inspected every two years and pumped out every 3-5 years. The visual inspection will indicate what the level of sludge is. The sludge should not be more than 1/3 of the tank volume. If it is too full, then the sludge, or any floating solids, can flow into the weeping tile bed. Over time this can cause blockages in the pipes of the weeping tile bed. Repairs to this portion of the system can be very expensive.

Always keep water volumes in mind. Appliances –washing machines, dishwashers, toilets, showerheads, and faucets that conserve water, will help to minimize the stress on the septic system. Fix leaking toilets and faucets and avoid adding any unnecessary water to septic system. Minimize the use of jacuzzi style bathtubs, spas, and hot tubs, as they contain large volumes of water and may flush sludge or solids out of the septic tank into the weeping tile bed.



-Never enter or stick your head into a septic tank. Dangerous gases are present in septic tanks, which can be lethal, even after the tank has been pumped out.

- Grass is the only vegetation that should be growing on the septic system. Lack of sunlight and tree roots are a tile bed's worst enemy, Remove and cut back as required

- A septic tank is not a garbage disposal. Keep the following out of the tank: solvents, coffee grounds, cooking fats/oils, disposal diapers, facial tissues, condoms, bleach, pesticides/herbicides, eavestrough runoff, sump pump discharge, dead pets, bandages, paints, auto grease/oil, bones, paper towels, sanitary napkins, foundation drainage, carpet/upholstery cleaners, medicine, antifreeze auto/plumbers.
Even bodily fluids from a person under going medical radiation, chemo, or high levels of antibiotics will potentially kill the natural bacteria in a septic system.

Questions to ask about the septic system:

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| 1. Does the homeowner have a copy of the septic system permit(s)? |
| 2. When was the last time the septic tank was pumped out? Are there any records of the system maintenance (system pump-outs, repairs, recorded problems)? |
| 3. Have there been any problems with the septic system? i.e. Toilets backing up, or slow draining, foul odours, effluent or soggy ground on weeping tile bed, system freezing, |
| 4. Have there been any potable water quality problems? i.e. (E-coli, feces, coliform, nitrate)? This could be due to infiltration of the well by leakage from the septic system and could indicate a malfunctioning system. |

Courtesy of
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