



Attention Homeowners Septic Pumping & Home Septic Systems

Knowledge Is Everything
And What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You

Your septic system is designed to receive regular septic maintenance – ignore it, and it could end up costing you a significant amount of money. You received an owner's manual with your \$35,000 new car – Here is Diamond Environmental Services single-sheet owner's manual for your \$20,000 septic system. This single-sheet reference manual will help you care for your septic system. It was created specifically to help you understand how your system works and what steps you can take as a homeowner to ensure your septic system works properly.

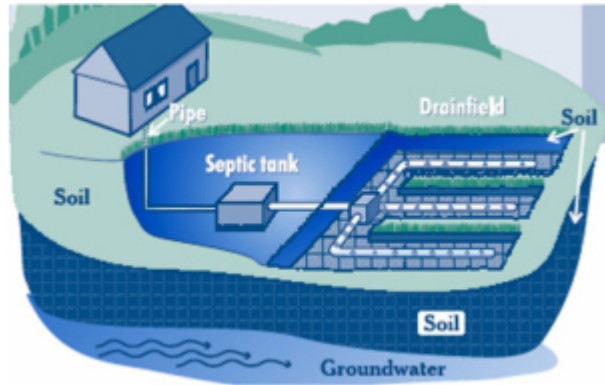
Inspecting & Pumping Your Septic Tanks

Inspect on occasion and pump frequently. The typical septic system does not need to be inspected often by a professional as long as the septic tank is pumped regularly. Tanks should be pumped every 2 – 3 years. Alternative systems with electrical float switches, pumps, or mechanical components need to be inspected more often, generally once a year. Diamond Environmental inspects for tank leaks and looks at the scum and sludge layers in your septic tank. If the bottom of the scum layer is within 6 inches of the bottom of the outlet tee or the top of the sludge layer is within 12 inches of the outlet tee, your tank needs to be pumped. Remember to note the sludge and scum levels determined. This information will help you to determine how often pumping is necessary.

Four Major Factors Influencing Septic Pumping Frequency

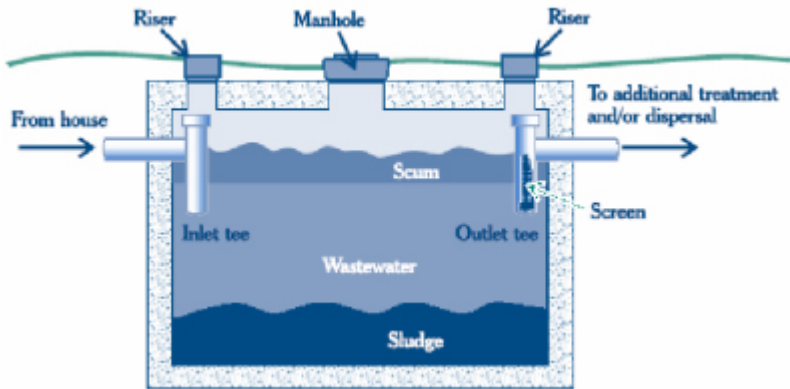
Although we highly recommend your septic tank be pumped every 2 – 3 years, there are four major factors having an influence in the frequency of your pumping needs:

1. The number of people in your household.
2. Amount of wastewater generated (based on the number of people in the household and the amount of water used).
3. The volume of solids in the wastewater (for example, using a garbage disposal increases the amount of solids)
4. Septic tank size.



~ How Your Septic System Works ~

A typical septic system has four main components: a pipe from the home, a septic tank, a drainfield, and the soil. Microbes in the soil digest or remove most contaminants from wastewater before it eventually reaches groundwater. The septic tank is a buried, watertight container typically made of concrete, fiberglass, or polyethylene. It holds the wastewater long enough to allow solids to settle out (forming sludge) and oil and grease to float to the surface (as scum). It also allows partial decomposition of the solid materials. Compartments and a T-shaped outlet in the septic tank prevent the sludge and scum from leaving the tank and traveling into the drainfield area. Screens are also recommended to keep solids from entering the drainfield. The wastewater exits the septic tank and is discharged into the drainfield for further treatment by the soil. Microorganisms in the soil provide final treatment by removing harmful bacteria, viruses, and nutrients.



Minimizing Repairs

A key reason for maintaining your septic system is to save money! Failing septic systems are expensive to repair or replace, and poor maintenance is often the culprit. Having your septic system inspected regularly is a bargain when you consider the cost of replacing the entire system. Your system will need pumping depending on how many people live in the house and the size of the system. An unusable septic system or one in disrepair will lower your property value and could pose a legal liability.

Maintaining Your Septic System Protects The Value Of Your Home

If properly designed, constructed, and maintained, your septic system can provide long-term, effective treatment of household wastewater. If your septic system isn't maintained, you may need to replace it, costing you thousands of dollars. A malfunctioning system can contaminate groundwater that might be a source of drinking water. And if you sell your home, your septic system must be in good working order.

Pump Frequently: You should have a typical septic system inspected at least every 3 years by a professional and your tank pumped as recommended by the inspector (generally every 2 to 3 years).



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Use Water Efficiently: Average indoor water use in the typical single-family home is almost 70 gallons per person per day. Dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day. The more water a household conserves, the less water enters the septic system.

Flush Responsibly: Dental floss, feminine hygiene products, condoms, diapers, cotton swabs, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, cat litter, paper towels, and other kitchen and bathroom items can clog and potentially damage septic system components. Flushing household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, and paint can stress or destroy the biological treatment taking place in the system or might contaminate surface waters and groundwater.

◆ TIPS ◆

- Fill the tubs with only as much water as you need
- Run the dishwasher and clothes washer only when they're full

- Make sure faucets are completely turned off when not in use
- install aerators in the faucets in your kitchen and bathroom
- Turn off faucets while brushing, etc.
- Use toilets to flush sanitary waste
- Maintain your plumbing to eliminate leaks>
- Replace older toilets, washers, etc.

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency