



Columbiana County Health District

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Septic System Maintenance

➤ Have your septic tank inspected annually and pumped on a regular basis.

Table 1. Estimate Septic Tank Pumping Frequencies in Years (For Year-Round Residence)										
Tank Size (gal)	Household Size (Number of People)									
	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
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

Note: More frequent pumping needed if garbage disposal is used.

- If your system has a diversion device make sure to switch annually.
- Divert sources of water, like roof drains, footer drains, softener drains and sump pumps away from the system. Excess water saturates the soil leading to system failure. Salt from softened water will deteriorate the septic tanks and cause premature system failure.
- Obtain and keep a sketch of the system with a detailed record of repairs, pumping, inspections, and other maintenance activities. A Maintenance Agreement is required on all aeration type systems.
- Keep your septic tank cover and diversion device accessible for inspection and cleaning. Install risers if necessary.
- Never dig or build anything over your system. Promptly repair leaky faucets or toilets, and install water saving devices.
- Don't use your toilet as a trash can. Coffee grounds, dental floss, disposable diapers, kitty litter, sanitary napkins, tampons, cigarette butts, condoms, fat, grease, oil, automotive fluids and paper towels should never be disposed of in the system.
- Keep good vegetative cover over the system in order to help remove excess water and prevent erosion. Do not plant deep rooted, water loving trees onto the leachfield (ie. Maples, willows etc.) Pine trees are shallow rooted and are acceptable.
- Never pour chemicals or cleaners such as paints, varnishes, thinners and pesticides down the drain/toilet. Harsh chemicals can kill beneficial bacteria that treat wastewater.
- Eliminate or reduce the use of a garbage disposal. The additional waste produced by a garbage disposal will lead to extra maintenance requirements.
- Call a registered sewage system contractor or your local health department if you experience problems or if there are any signs of system failure.
- Biological and chemical additives are not necessary, may cause harm to the system, and do not eliminate the need for pumping the septic tank.

Our Vision: "A safe community of healthy people"