

Q: How often should I have my septic tank pumped out?

A: There are still a lot of people who believe that if they've never had a problem with their septic tank then everything must be going fine. Over time solid materials settle to the bottom of the tank forming a "sludge layer". Normal tanks have enough room to accommodate about 2-3 years' worth of sludge. Ignoring this rule of thumb can be a costly mistake. Septic tanks should be pumped out at least every 2-3 years to prevent sludge from building up and eventually exiting the tank, causing damage to your drain field.

Q: How does my septic system work?

A: When waste water enters the tank, it is "digested" anaerobically-basically the bacteria's present in the tank decomposes and mineralize the solid waste and the liquid waste is separated. That's why the use of certain chemicals, or too much water - can affect this natural cause and effect system. Waste that is not decomposed by the system eventually has to be pumped out - we recommend every 2-3 years.

Q: What will cause my septic tank to back up?

A: Disposal of not-biodegradable objects (such as flushed items, hair, etc.) can get lodged in the pipes and cause a backup. Additionally, use of solvents and chemicals down your drains, can reduce the natural decomposition of the solid wastes in the tank, causing the level of sludge to rise and back up the system. Not pumping out your system on a regular basis (once every 2-3 years) can cause backups. Excessive disposal of oils and grease may cause your drains to block and are not digested easily in the septic tank. Additionally, some cleaners and chemicals (bleaches, solvents, etc.) can damage the working of your septic tank and should be properly disposed of. Garbage disposals can be used with septic systems, but should be used with restraint to prevent unnecessary strain on the septic system.

Q: What are some signs that I might notice that would tell me it's time to clean my Septic Tank?

A: Regular, timely cleaning of the septic tank is key to having few problems with your plumbing, but if you notice a gurgling or "burping" in your plumbing fixtures or a sluggish toilet or drain that just doesn't seem right, it may be time to have your tank cleaned out. Uncovering the Septic Tank and inspecting it will tell if the problem is septic related or in the plumbing in the house.