

HOMEOWNER'S MANUAL

Onsite Wastewater Collection & Treatment Systems

How to Take Care of Your Wastewater System



Orenco Systems®
Incorporated

Changing the Way the
World Does Wastewater®

800-348-9843
www.orenco.com
www.vericomm.net



How to Take Care of Your Wastewater System

Congratulations!

Your home includes reliable, carefully engineered equipment — manufactured by Orenco Systems®, Inc. — for the collection and/or treatment of household wastewater.

When properly designed and installed, onsite wastewater treatment does a terrific job of decomposing household waste and recycling precious water resources. Our systems use little energy and frequently outperform municipal sewage treatment plants. The treated effluent is often returned harmlessly to the soil, where it receives final polishing and filtration for groundwater recharge. There's no degrading of our nation's rivers and oceans . . . which is so often the case with municipal sewage.

As with any engineered system, such as your car or your heat pump, your onsite wastewater system will work better and last longer if it is regularly maintained by a qualified service provider. Your service provider should be present during installation, so he or she is familiar with your system, especially those service lines, conduits, and connections that get buried.



And your service provider should have a copy of this manual. It's available on our Document Library, at www.orenco.com. Or call 800-348-9843 and we'll send you another.

Your system will also work better and last longer if you learn what can go into it — and what can not. Little effort is required. Just read and practice the “do’s and don’ts” that follow. Every member of your household should be familiar with these. And if you have guests who want to “help out in the kitchen,” be sure to tell them, too. With this preventive maintenance, along with periodic inspections, your onsite wastewater system should function for decades. And you’ll save water and energy, too!

There's a place on the back of this Homeowner's Manual to record "Important System Facts." If those have not been filled in for you, please record those now, before you file or shelve this manual. And give a copy of these facts to your service provider, especially if your service provider changes. You'll be glad you did.

Do's and Don'ts for INSIDE the House

There are a number of do's and don'ts that will help ensure a long life and minimal maintenance for your system.

As a general rule, nothing should be disposed into any wastewater system that hasn't first been ingested, other than toilet tissue, mild detergents, and wash water. Here are some additional guidelines.



Don't flush dangerous and damaging substances into your wastewater treatment system. (Please refer to the "Substitutes for Household Hazardous Waste," on the next panel.) Specifically, do not flush . . .

- Pharmaceuticals
- Excessive amounts of bath or body oils
- Water softener backwash
- Flammable or toxic products
- Household cleaners, especially floor wax and rug cleaners
- Chlorine bleach, chlorides, and pool or spa products
- Pesticides, herbicides, agricultural chemicals, or fertilizers



Do keep lint out of your wastewater treatment system by cleaning the lint filters on your washing machine and dryer before every load. Installing a supplemental lint filter on your washing machine would be a good precautionary measure. (This normally takes just a few minutes. Lint and other such materials can make a big difference in the frequency and cost of pumping out your primary treatment tank.)



Don't use special additives that are touted to enhance the performance of your tank or system. Additives can cause major damage to other areas in the collection system. The natural microorganisms that grow in your system generate their own enzymes that are sufficient for breaking down and digesting nutrients in the wastewater.



Don't ignore leaky plumbing fixtures; repair them. A leaky toilet can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water in a single day. That's 10-20 times more water than a household's typical daily usage. Leaky plumbing fixtures increase your water bill, waste natural resources, and overload your system.



Don't leave interior faucets on to protect water lines during cold spells. A running faucet can easily increase your wastewater flow by 1,000 to 3,000 gallons per day and hydraulically overload your system. Instead, properly insulate or heat your faucets and plumbing.



Do collect grease in a container and dispose with your trash. And avoid using garbage disposals excessively. Compost scraps or dispose with your trash, also. Food by-products accelerate the need for septic pumping and increase maintenance.



Do use your trash can to dispose of substances that cause maintenance problems and/or increase the need for septic pumping. Dispose of the following with your trash:

- Egg shells, cantaloupe seeds, gum, coffee grounds
- Tea bags, chewing tobacco, cigarette butts
- Paper towels, newspapers, sanitary napkins, diapers, kitty litter, candy wrappers
- Rags, large amounts of hair

Do's and Don'ts for INSIDE the House



Don't use excessive amounts of water. Using 50 gallons per person per day is typical. If your household does not practice any of the "water conserving tips" below, you may be using too much water.

Do conserve water:

- Take shorter showers or take baths with a partially filled tub. Be cautious about excessive use of large soaking tubs.
- Don't let water run unnecessarily while brushing teeth or washing hands, food, dishes, etc.
- Wash dishes and clothes when you have a full load.
- When possible, avoid doing several loads in one day.
- Use water-saving devices on faucets and showerheads.
- When replacing old toilets, buy low-flush models.



Do use substitutes for household hazardous waste. Replace the following hazardous products with products that are less environmentally harmful. The hazardous cleaners are listed below, followed by the suggested substitute.

Ammonia-based cleaners:

Sprinkle baking soda on a damp sponge. For windows, use a solution of 2 tbs white vinegar to 1 qt water. Pour the mixture into a spray bottle.

Disinfectants:

Use borax: 1/2 cup in a gallon of water; deodorizes also.

Drain cloggers:

Use a plunger or metal snake, or remove and clean trap.

Scouring cleaners & powders:

Sprinkle baking soda on a damp sponge or add 4 tbs baking soda to 1 qt warm water. Or use Bon Ami; it's cheaper and won't scratch.

Carpet/upholstery cleaners:

Sprinkle dry cornstarch or baking soda on, then vacuum. For tougher stains, blot with white vinegar in soapy water.

Toilet cleaners:

Sprinkle on baking soda or Bon Ami; then scrub with a toilet brush.

Furniture/floor polishes:

To clean, use oil soap and warm water. Dry with soft cloth. Polish with 1 part lemon juice and 2 parts oil (any kind), or use natural products with lemon oil or beeswax in mineral oil.

Metal cleaners:

- Brass and copper: scrub with a used half of lemon dipped in salt.
- Stainless steel: use scouring pad and soapy water.
- Silver: rub gently with toothpaste and soft wet cloth.

Oven cleaners:

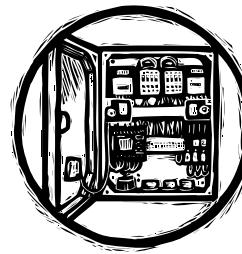
Quickly sprinkle salt on drips; then scrub. Use baking soda and scouring pads on older spills.



Laundry detergents:

Choose a liquid detergent (not a powder) that doesn't have chlorine or phosphates.

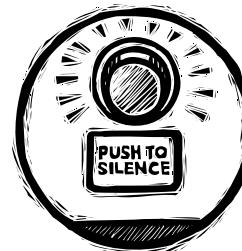
At the Control Panel



Do locate your electrical control panel where it will be protected from potential vandalism and have unobstructed access.

Do familiarize yourself with the location of your wastewater system and electrical control panel. Refer to the panel's model and UL number (inside the door panel) when reporting a malfunction in the system.

Do take immediate action to correct the problem in the event of an alarm condition. Call your system operator or maintenance company immediately whenever an alarm comes on. (It sounds like a smoke alarm.)



Do remember that the audible alarm can be silenced by pushing the lighted button located directly above the "Push to Silence" label on the front of the electrical control panel. With normal use, the tank has a reserve storage capacity good for 24-48 hours.

Don't turn off the main circuit breaker to the wastewater pumps when going on vacation. If there is any infiltration or inflow into the system, the pumps will need to handle it.

Do's and Don'ts for OUTSIDE the House



Don't enter your tank. Entering an underground tank without the necessary confined space entry training and procedures can result in death from asphyxiation or drowning. Keep children away from tank openings if lids are off or lid bolts are removed.

Do keep the tank access lid fastened to the riser at all times with stainless steel lid bolts. If the lid or riser becomes damaged, **BLOCK ACCESS TO THE TANK OPENING, IMMEDIATELY.** Then call your service provider to repair it. If you or your service provider needs replacement bolts, call Orenco at 800-348-9843.



Don't dig without knowing the location of your wastewater system. As much as possible, plan landscaping and permanent outdoor structures before installation. But easily removable items, such as bird baths and picnic tables, are OK to place on top of your system.



Don't drive over your tank or any buried components in your system, unless it's been equipped with a special traffic lid. If the system is subject to possible traffic, put up a barricade or a row of shrubs.

Don't dump RV waste into your wastewater system. It will increase the frequency of required septic pumping. When dumped directly into the pumping vault, RV waste clogs or fouls equipment, causing undue maintenance and repair costs. (Also, some RV waste may contain chemicals that are toxic or that may retard the biological digestion occurring within the tank.)

Don't ever connect rain gutters or storm drains to the sewer or allow surface water to drain into it. And don't discharge hot-tub water into your system. The additional water will increase costs, reduce the capacity of the collection and treatment systems, and flood the drainfield. It can also wash excess solids through the tank.



Do make arrangements with a reliable service person to provide regular monitoring and maintenance. Place the service person's phone number on or in your control panel!

Do keep a file copy of your service provider's sludge and scum monitoring report and pumpout schedule. This information will be beneficial for real estate transactions or regulatory visits.

Do keep an "as built" system diagram in a safe place for reference.

HOMEOWNER'S MANUAL

Onsite Wastewater Collection & Treatment Systems



Do keep accurate records of maintenance and service calls. Make sure whoever services your tank keeps a complete record, and ask for a copy for your records.

IMPORTANT SYSTEM FACTS

Distributor or Dealer:

Please fill out the following important information before giving out this Homeowner's Manual:

Distributor/Dealer Name

Distributor/Dealer Address

Distributor/Dealer Phone Number(s)

Permit # (if applicable)

Property Address

Property Owner Name(s)

Authorized Service Provider Name

Authorized Service Provider Phone Number(s)

Start-Up Date

Control Panel Model # and UL #

Authorized Installer Name

Authorized Installer Phone Number(s)

AdvanTex® Model # (if applicable)

AdvanTex® Serial # (if applicable)

Engineer Name (if applicable)

Engineer Phone Number(s)


AdvanTex®
Treatment System
AXN Models meet
the requirements of
NSF-ANSI Standard 40
for Class I Systems.

Regulatory Agency

Regulatory Contact Name

Regulatory Contact Phone Number(s)



Orenco Systems®
Incorporated

*Changing the Way the
World Does Wastewater®*

800-348-9843
www.orenco.com
www.vericomm.net

Residential Biotube® Effluent Filters

Applications

Our patented* 4-in. (102-mm) Biotube Effluent Filters, Biotube Jr., Biotube Insert Filters, and Biotube Base Inlet Filters are ideal for residential septic tanks and have a lifetime warranty. They prevent large solids from leaving the tank, dramatically improving wastewater quality and extending the life of residential drainfields.

4-in. (102-mm) Biotube Effluent Filter



4-in. (102-mm) Biotube Jr.
(4-in. Biotube cartridge available separately as Insert Filter)

8-in. (203-mm)
Base Inlet Filter



12-in. (305-mm)
Base Inlet Filter



Orenco's superior effluent filters resist clogging better than all other brands. Our standard, full-sized 4-in. (102-mm) Biotube Effluent Filter provides maximum long-term protection in a complete package, with housing. Our 4-in. (102-mm) Biotube Jr., at half the size of our standard model, has more filtering capacity than the full-sized filters sold by other manufacturers. For tanks with existing outlet tees, the Biotube Insert Filter is ideal. And for low-profile tanks, there's the Base Inlet Filter.

* Covered by patent numbers 5,492,635 and 4,439,323

To Order

Call your nearest Orenco Systems®, Inc. distributor. For nearest distributor, call Orenco at 800-348-9843 or go to www.orenco.com and click on "Distributor Locator."

Standard Features & Benefits

- Has 5-10 times more flow area than other brands, so lasts many times longer between cleanings, increasing homeowner satisfaction
- Installs in minutes inside new or existing tanks; extendible tee handle for easy removal
- Easy to clean by simply hosing off whenever the tank needs pumping
- Removes about two-thirds of suspended solids, on average, extending drainfield life
- Corrosion-proof construction, to ensure long life
- Lifetime warranty

Optional Features & Benefits

- Alarm available, to signal the need for cleaning
 - Flow modulating discharge orifices available to limit flow rate leaving tank, mitigating surges and increasing retention time
 - Custom and commercial sizes available
- Effluent from the relatively clear zone of the septic tank, between the scum and sludge layers, horizontally enters the Biotube Effluent Filter. Effluent then enters the annular space between the housing and the Biotubes, utilizing the Biotubes' entire surface for filtering. Particles larger than the Biotube's mesh are prevented from leaving the tank.



Orenco Systems®
Incorporated

*Changing the Way the
World Does Wastewater®*

www.orenco.com

Nomenclatures

4-in. Biotube Filter (standard)

FT **04** -

Options:
Blank = no options
M = flow modulation plate installed
A = float bracket attached

Cartridge height: 28" and 36" are standard

Housing height: 36" and 44" are standard

Filter diameter (inches)

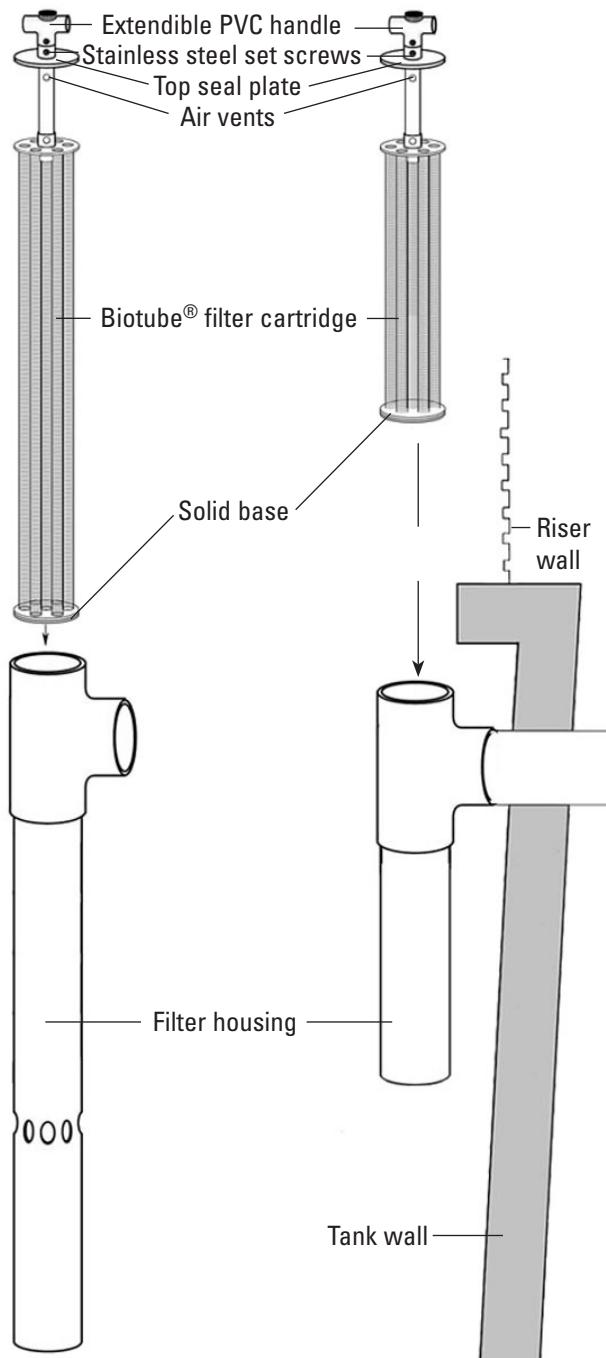
W = fits Type 3034 outlet pipe
S = fits Schedule 40 outlet pipe

Blank = 1/8" filtration
P = 1/16" filtration

Biotube effluent filter series

4-in. Biotube Effluent Filter

4-in. Biotube Jr.



8-, 12-in. Biotube Filter (base inlet model)

FT **22-14 B**

Options:
A = float bracket

Base inlet model

Cartridge height: 14" standard

Housing height: 22" standard

Filter diameter (inches)
08 = 8"

Blank = 1/8" filtration
P = 1/16" filtration

Biotube effluent filter series

4-in. Biotube Jr. (includes cartridge and housing)

FT J **04 18**

Options:
Blank = no options
M = flow modulation plate installed
A = float bracket attached

Cartridge height (inches)

Filter diameter (inches)

W = fits Type 3034 outlet pipe
S = fits Schedule 40 outlet pipe

Blank = 1/8" filtration
P = 1/16" filtration

Junior series

Biotube effluent filter series

4-in. Biotube Filter Insert (cartridge only)

FT i **04 18** - -

For customized options (e.g., NC indicates North Carolina regions)

W = fits Type 3034 outlet tee
S = fits Schedule 40 outlet tee

Cartridge height (inches)

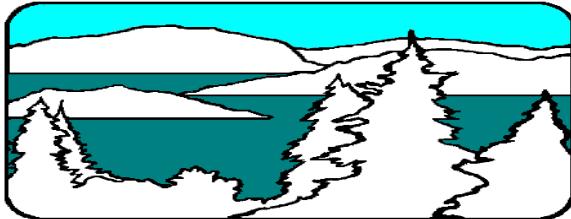
Filter diameter (inches)

Blank = 1/8" filtration
P = 1/16" filtration

Insert

Biotube effluent filter series

Distributed By:



Health & Community Services
San Juan County

P.O. Box 607 ◆ 145 Rhone, Friday Harbor, WA 98250
Phone: (360) 378-4474 Fax: (360) 378-7036

YOUR HOME SEWAGE SYSTEM A Homeowners Maintenance Guide

SYSTEM DO'S

To extend the life of your on-site sewage system, save on maintenance costs, and protect water quality:

1. Inspect your septic tank annually.

Generally, septic tanks should be pumped every three to five years. Inspection, by you or a professional, may show that you need to pump more or less often. Regular pumping ensures that solids will not flow from the septic tank into the drainfield. Solids can destroy the drainfield, and pumping will not bring a failed drainfield back to life.

2. To reduce household water usage:

*Use water-saving bathroom and kitchen fixtures (faucets, showers, toilets).

*Run and drain appliances, such as dishwashers and washing machines, one at a time.

*Spread laundry over the entire week and avoid partial loads.

*Fix all faucet and toilet leaks promptly.

3. Direct water from downspouts and roofs away from the drainfield.

Water from these sources can cause the drainfield to work improperly.

4. Keep cars and trucks off the septic tank and drainfield areas.

This prevents pipes from breaking and soil from becoming compacted. Compacted soils do not readily absorb water from the drainfield.

5. Use phosphate-free detergent.

Phosphate-free detergents help prevent algae problems in nearby ponds, lakes & streams.

SYSTEM DON'TS

To keep your on-site sewage system in proper working order, keep these things in mind:

6. Don't use a garbage disposal.

A garbage disposal adds solids and grease to the system which may lead to drainfield failure.

7. Don't use septic tank additives or "miracle" system cleaners:

Some of these chemicals can actually harm the on-site sewage system by allowing solids to flow into and clog the drainfield. Chemical additives can also contaminate ground and surface water.

8. Don't dispose of water from hot tubs into the on-site sewage system.

The large amount of water is harmful to the system, and the chlorine can destroy important bacteria in the system. Drain hot tubs onto the ground, away from the drainfield and not into a storm drain.

9. Don't flush solid wastes into the on-site sewage system.

These include diapers, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, tampons, condoms, and grease.

10. Don't put strong chemicals, such as cleaning products, down the drain.

Household chemicals such as drain cleaners, paint and paint thinners, floor and sink cleaners and excessive amounts of bleach can destroy important bacteria in the septic tank and contaminate ground and surface water.

11. Don't construct patios, carports, or use landscaping plastic over the drainfield.

Grass is the best cover for the septic tank and drainfield. Soil compaction and paving prevents oxygen from getting into the soil. This oxygen is needed by bacteria to break down or treat sewage.