



WRIGHT SEPTIC

Septic System Services

951-654-4840

RECOMMENDED SEPTIC SYSTEMS CARE PROCEDURES

Our staff at Wright Septic have taken a few moments to prepare a packet that will assist our customers with the care, upkeep and maintenance of their newly installed or existing septic systems. By following these simple steps the home owner can insure prolonged life and proper operation of their waste water disposal systems.

Let's begin with the owners of existing systems:

The first and foremost step in maintenance is regular cleaning/pumping of the tank itself. This is done through two openings on top of the tank, one over the solid compartment which comprises two thirds of the tank capacity and one over the liquid compartment which contains one third of the tank capacity. Regular pumping eliminates the excessive buildup of heavy solid materials which can block the inlet pipe causing back up and also puts undue stress on the baffle wall which separates the two compartments. This step also reduces the chance of solid waste going into the liquid side of the tank and then out into the drain field causing premature failure.

The next step is to properly use the appropriate additives. There are two main additives that should be introduced into all septic tanks. One is the bacteria enhancer, and the other is root killer or root deterrent. Our company carries one proven brand of bacteria activator/enhancer called Action Plus. This product helps to stimulate and promote bacteria growth in the tank therein breaking down the solid material and reducing the stress on internal components of the tank. Application of this product varies depending on household size. Simply follow the directions printed on the bottle which may be purchased from the pump truck driver or in the office. Other brands such as RID-X can be found at most home improvement centers or plumbing supply businesses. The other additive being root killer is to prevent or deter root infestations at the tank, sewer pipes and drainfield components. There are two types of root abatement products generally used by most septic owners. One is our preferred product known as copper sulfate crystals which is the more aggressive type and the other is a liquid form that is a bit more passive. The copper sulfate crystal form can be purchased at any plumbing supply or in bulk at any commercial fertilizer supply. This form is added through any toilet at the rate of two pounds twice a year. It is safe for trees and ground cover as it only disperses a small distance from the plumbing lines themselves. The liquid form

is also added at the toilet site and has recommended dosages printed on the label. This type can be found at any big box home improvement store.

Now for the proud owners of brand new septic systems:

All of the same care and maintenance procedures of existing systems apply to you with a couple of added recommendations. With the new county and state codes and requirements, the chances of having what is known as an effluent filter installed in the septic tank are very high. This filter is put into the liquid side of the tank and installed into the outlet pipe which leads to the drain field. Its purpose is to stop all or most of the floating particles from reaching the pipes or other components of the drain field therein prolonging life and proper operation. The home owner's responsibility is to periodically remove the filter and clean it of the trapped debris to insure proper flow of the waste water to the drain field. This is typically done with a water hose over the solid compartment of the tank. The time table for filter cleaning will be determined on a monitored by the owner basis over the first year. Meaning, check it every two to three months after the first year and decide if it needs cleaning or not. If this filter becomes plugged and is ignored, a backup of the entire system will occur. These new systems will also have county required 24 inch manhole access risers. These newly designed access risers are especially important as they allow for a much better cleaning of the tank than through that of the older 6" style riser pipes. For the customers with existing systems, both the access risers and effluent filters can be installed on and in most every type of septic tank even if it's an older style. Simply call our company and request an estimate to install these items and bring your existing system up to date.

Now that we have covered additives, accessories, and maintenance of the system, we would like to make a couple of recommendations on the drain field, also known as the leech field. We covered root abatement additives, but there are other dos and don'ts involved.

First of all, two major things are happening in all leech systems, one being percolation and the other being evaporation. Percolation is when the waste water that is being dispersed into the ground seeps out into the soil and is filtered and absorbed by the earth. Evaporation is, as everyone may be well aware of, the dispersal of the moisture into the air after it is filtered through the soil. Percolation is going to happen no matter what, but the evaporation process can be damaged in several ways. Avoid over compaction of the soil over the leech field by not driving vehicles constantly over the field or placing concrete slabs and or structures over the field. Do not plant large trees or deep root shrubs over the field as well, although small garden plants and or grass will not affect them. If you have no idea where your leech field and or tank is located, simply call our office and for a small fee our expert staff can locate all components of your septic system so all the care and precautions can be taken.

This concludes our recommendations and we wish you many happy worry free years as owners of one of the longest standing waste water disposal systems known.