

What is a Septic System?

A septic tank is a key component of the septic system, a small-scale sewage treatment system common in areas with no connection to main sewage pipes provided by local governments or private corporations.

In North America, approximately 25% of the population relies on septic tanks; this can include suburbs and small towns as well as rural areas.

Periodic preventive maintenance is required to remove the irreducible solids that settle and gradually fill the tank, reducing its efficiency. In most jurisdictions this maintenance is required by law, yet often not enforced. Those who ignore the requirement will eventually be faced with extremely costly repairs when solids escape the tank and destroy the clarified liquid effluent disposal means. A properly maintained system, on the other hand, can last for decades or possibly even a lifetime. (Wikipedia, para. 1 & 3) 2012

Precautions and Suggestions

1. Establish a maintenance schedule for your septic system.
2. Do not flush difficult materials for your system to digest: grease, excessive food or garbage.
3. Try and avoid non biodegradable items: paint; petroleum based products; cat litter; paper towels/napkins; or disinfections.
4. Limit your use to chlorine Bleach or switch to an oxygen bleach alternative. (Usually color safe bleach)
5. Repair any leaky plumbing fixtures to avoid saturation.
6. Use corrosive drain openers minimally. Use mild build up preventatives instead. This will help from overloading your system.

Below is a chart giving you an idea of how often you should pump out your septic system.

TANK SIZE (gal)	NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN HOME							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
750	9.1	4.2	2.6	1.8	1.3	1	0.7	0.6
1000	12.4	5.9	3.7	2.6	2	1.5	1.2	1
12250	15.6	7.5	4.8	3.4	2.6	2	1.7	1.4
1500	18.9	9.1	5.9	4.2	3.3	2.6	2.1	1.8
1750	22.1	10.7	6.9	5	3.9	3.1	2.6	2.2
2000	25.4	12.4	8	5.9	4.5	3.7	3.1	2.6
2500	31.9	15.6	10.2	7.5	5.9	4.8	4	4
HOW OFTEN YOU SHOULD PUMP YOUR TANK								

With a 2500 gallon tank and one person in the household, it is calculated that you would pump out that septic tank after 31.9 years. Roughly.

*******Tulalip Utility Authority Contact: (360) 716-4840 *******

