



HELPFUL HINTS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS

TILE FIELD FAILURE

People often don't realize they have a septic system problem until it's too late. They live with their septic systems for years believing that they are functioning well. In fact, most systems are heading toward failure eventually.

A septic tank which is not functioning at peak efficiency will allow escape of solids to the drainage tiles and sand bed. Bacterial digestion in those areas will be insufficient to take this load. The eventual result is tile field failure and expensive replacement of tiles and sand. Septic tanks must be pumped periodically and a digestion accelerator used to improve digestion in the tank and raise the digestion rate in the tiles and surrounding sand.

Septo Clean will unblock tile lines and drainage beds in many instances, but is best applied as economical insurance against such problems.

MORE SEPTIC SYSTEMS FAIL IN WINTER THAN IN SUMMER!

WHY? Because bacterial digestion rates are highly temperature dependent. People just tend to notice problems more in the warm weather because they see or smell the problem outside. If a septic system shows any sign of problem in the summer, it will surely become a major problem in the winter.

KITCHEN GREASE AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Can septic tank/drain treatment products combat grease problems? In normal domestic systems, products need not be specially formulated to deal with kitchen fats. Simply minimizing the amount of fat/grease entering the septic system and separately disposing of it, is the best and **ONLY** way to ensure problem free operation.

Restaurants are required to install grease traps to prevent high grease discharges to sewers. This is because even municipal treatment plants cannot effectively treat high levels of grease. Should we expect more of our septic systems? When proper care is taken to minimize discharge of kitchen grease, use of Septo Clean will take care of the rest. Septo Clean will maintain digestion at peak efficiency and ensure rapid degradation of normal grease loads.

CHEMICAL CLEANERS IMPAIR SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Most people realize that chlorine bleach impairs septic system performance. They often fail to realize that any strong cleaner can cause septic problems. Any product designed to kill bacteria (sanitize) can impair septic action.

Toilet bowl cleaners and drain cleaners are especially bad because their strongly acidic action kill bacteria in the septic tank, and create an acidic condition which can, for a significant period of time, impair bacterial action.

RULE OF THUMB If a product is too strong to have your hands (thumb) in, it's bad for the septic system. Substitute elbow grease, mechanical action and mild biodegradable cleaners and regular application of Septo Clean to help the drains and septic system deal with the products that are used.

CAN A SEPTIC SYSTEM LIVE WITH LAUNDRY WASTE?

Septic systems depend upon a thriving bacterial population in the septic tank. Any significant change in conditions impairs bacterial health. Normally, laundry detergents in themselves will not seriously change the conditions sufficiently to impair bacterial action. Even laundry bleach, if not overused, can be tolerated by a healthy septic system.

What a septic system does not tolerate very well is the lint which is present in the wash water. These tiny particles, many of which are synthetic, are hard to digest, and because they are so light they pass directly through to the tile lines. Digestion of synthetic fibres in the tile lines or surrounding drainage field is highly unlikely. The result is a plugged sand bed and expensive replacement.

Low cost lint filters are available at hardware stores, and should be used for all laundry machines which drain to a septic system.

SEPTIC TANK ACTIVATORS: ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES?

There are two main categories of these products:

1. Chemical products work by reacting with organic wastes to change them from solid to liquid. They may also reduce the acidity of the liquid in the septic tank which can be beneficial. Any beneficial result is short-lived because the small amount of chemical added is reacted very quickly and can only react once. Addition of larger quantities will kill the bacteria in the system. Chemical products are usually calcium based products such as lime, although caustic soda (lye) is sometimes used when severe blockages occur.

2. Biological products work by increasing the rate of bacterial digestion in the system. These products range from simple bakers yeast to formulations with engineered bacteria and free enzymes. Biological products, properly formulated, can work for long periods of time, if the system is not abused with strong chemical products. They can also increase the digestion rate in the tile lines and surrounding sand.

Naturally Powerful - Totally Safe!