A Series for Clean Water

Septic Systems

Guide to:
A Homeowner’s

About Septic Systems

Why Are We Concerned?

Special Considerations

You suspect such a failure, professional or local health department.
Decide. Check with a Septic System
defect, the system is not easy to

When partially reacted wastewater
strips of bright green grass over the drainfield.
field or damage. You may also notice
whether your toilet or sink backs up. When you

The most obvious septic system failures are
DOS & DON'TS

Health Department

When a septic system is properly designed, installed, and maintained, you will have a waste disposal system that is conditionally effective and environmentally safe. Seeley Septic Systems collect and dispose of waste efficiently.

OVERVIEW

DOS & DON'TS

DOs:
- Plant only grass over your system.
- Do not use commercial washing machine or dishwasher.
- Do not drive or park over any part of the drain field.
- Have your septic tank pumped every 2-3 years by a licensed septic service.

DON'TS:
- Do not dispose of garbage, pharmaceuticals, or toxic products in your septic system.
- Do not use excessive force when driving or parking.
- Do not use a household garbage disposal.
- Do not construct any structures over the drain field.

HOW SEPTIC SYSTEMS WORK

A septic system is made of both a septic tank and a drain field. Untreated household waste is pumped into the septic tank where a liquid layer forms on top and the solid waste settles to the bottom. The liquid layer then flows into the drain field, where it is dispersed into the surrounding soil (drain field).

The liquid layer is commonly referred to as liquid sewage. The sewer line between the house and the septic tank is the sanitary sewer line. The liquid layer is transported to the septic tank and is then transported to the drain field where it is dispersed into the surrounding soil.

Figure 1. Cross section of a typical single compartment septic tank.