

POWTS MANAGEMENT

Proper functioning of the POWTS (Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment System) or "septic system" is significantly dependent on the quality (i.e. contaminants) and quantity of wastewater that goes into the system. If you lower the volume and the amount of contaminants, the system will function better and last longer—simply put LESS IS BETTER! Typical system components include a septic tank to allow the solids to settle out and contain the greases and oils, a filter on the outlet side to catch the solids that remain suspended in the wastewater. A system may also include a pump tank with a pump and controls, where the clarified effluent accumulates for dosing, and an absorption cell where the clarified effluent is dispersed and recycled in a manner that is meant to protect the groundwater quality and public health.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Install water saving appliances whenever and wherever possible.
2. Repair any leaks (no matter how small) as soon as possible.
3. Never pour greases or oils (i.e. contaminants) down any drain or stool.
4. If you do have a garbage disposal use it sparingly.
5. Tissue is the only paper product that should be put into the system.
6. No chemical of any kind should be put into the system.
7. Maintain steady regular flows of water; spread laundry washing throughout the week.
8. Avoid vehicular traffic over all system components.
9. Compaction or removal of snow cover may lead to hydraulic failure by freezing.

MAINTENANCE

1. CAUTION: NEVER ENTER A SEPTIC TANK.
2. The effluent filter should be cleaned and inspected by the owner or a licensed maintenance service technician every 6 months or more often if needed. FILTER MAINTENANCE IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SYSTEM OWNER.
3. A properly licensed person must inspect the septic system every three years. The septic tank will require pumping if the total amount of scum and solids equals one-third or more of the tank capacity. Pumping could be required more often, depending on building wastewater flows.
4. If the tank requires pumping it must only be done by a properly licensed individual. Filters should be cleaned and inspected at every pumping.
5. The homeowner should conduct periodic observation pipe inspections (i.e. quarterly of the absorption cell). If ponding is observed, increase the frequency of the inspections and if it persists call the maintainer or installer immediately.
6. If the system has specific treatment components not mentioned here, maintenance requirements would accompany their specifications.
7. If this system incorporates the use of a pump, there is an alarm system wired to a separate electrical circuit. In the event that the alarm is activated, minimize or if possible eliminate the water use and notify the maintainer or installer as soon as possible. The system is designed to allow for some reserve liquid capacity to accumulate until the necessary repairs have been made; the reserve capacity is minimal—no more than a day or two should pass before the repairs are made.
8. Wastewater monitoring of quality and quantity is not a normal requirement for residential systems; however, such monitoring may become necessary if problems develop. Any necessary monitoring shall be done in accord with the requirements of Comm. 83.54(2).

CONTINGENCY PLAN

Troubleshooting will be based on the best available accepted methods and technologies developed by competent researchers and field personnel. In the event component or system failures result wastewater strength, flows and distribution systems will be analyzed.

Influent or effluent will be properly handled and disposed of so as to comply with all provisions of Comm. 83 & NR 113. Prolonged pumping and hauling of wastewater may be necessary while analysis and repairs are being implemented.

Conclusions reached will be utilized to determine the appropriate range of responses. Responses may range from conversion of the system to a holding tank to additional soil testing and designing to obtain approval for the installation of another County and/or State approved component(s) or system. County and State staff will be kept apprised of the situation through phone conversations and/or written correspondence. If you experience any problems contact:

Installing Plumber Name: _____

Phone: _____

Maintenance Provider: _____

Phone: _____

County Zoning/Sanitarian: _____

Phone: _____