



DEERFIELD AREA RESIDENT SEPTIC SYSTEM INFO

HOW DOES MY SEPTIC SYSTEM WORK?

Septic tanks have two chambers and are generally constructed of concrete or fibreglass. A properly functioning septic system receives all the wastewater created from household use (including toilets, showers, sinks, dishwasher, washing machines, etc.). *Sump pit water should not be discharged into your septic tank. This is an infraction of By-Law 1674.* The purpose of the septic tank is to separate solids from liquids in the wastewater stream and to provide some breakdown of organic matter in the wastewater. As wastewater from the house enters the septic tank, its velocity slows allowing heavier solids to settle to the bottom and lighter materials to float to the surface. Anaerobic bacteria, which are always present in wastewater, digest some of the organic solids in the tank. This process occurs without oxygen so the tank needs to be sealed.

A septic system must work properly to prevent problems to the City's sewage system.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO KEEP MY SEPTIC SYSTEM WORKING PROPERLY?

- 1. Have your septic tank pumped out annually.** The best time to have a reputable sewage hauler pump out your tank is in summer to early fall. At these times, the ground will not be frozen, allowing easier access to the tank, and the biological activity in the tank can re-establish itself before winter.
- 2. Be mindful of what you flush or pour down the drain.** Because septic tanks rely on bacteria to breakdown the waste material, it is important that you don't poison these micro-organisms. Caustic toilet bowl cleaners and drain cleaners, chemicals, paint, solvents, kerosene, gas or oil

CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE...

SEPTIC TANK MAINTENANCE CONTINUED...

thinners, antifreeze, gas, oil, or nail polish remover can kill the beneficial bacteria in your tank. You should also avoid putting anything into your septic tank that takes a long time to break down, including grease, fat, diapers, tampons and applicators, condoms, paper towels, facial tissues, cigarette filters, cat litter, coffee grounds, egg shells, and other kitchen waste.

Important: Never discharge your septic tank liquids to surface. This is a serious contamination of the environment and must be reported if it occurs.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT HAVE MY TANK PUMPED OUT REGULARLY?

- Premature failure of your septic system
- Creation of excess hazardous gases

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MY SEPTIC SYSTEM?

These are a few of the common signs of trouble with septic systems:

- Toilets or drains are backed up or run more slowly than usual
- Septic pump runs more frequently or non-stop
- Soggy or wet ground around the septic tank
- Surface flooding of sewage or effluent around the septic tank
- Sewage back-up in the basement

If you have any of these problems, please contact a local plumber or septic business immediately.

RECORDS OF SEPTIC MAINTENANCE

The City of Steinbach keeps record of households that have their septic tanks serviced and dumped at the Steinbach Waste Transfer Station. Septic tank cleaning should be performed at least once a year by a septic hauler who holds a valid City of Steinbach business license.

Visit www.steinbach.ca
or call 326-9877 for more
information about
Steinbach's water &
wastewater management.

