



EXCAVATING • TRUCKING • SEPTIC MAINTENANCE

YOU HAVE A NEW DRAIN FIELD... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

If you have opted to have Lester Brothers topsoil and seed your yard, you are responsible for watering and fertilizing the lawn. The sooner you get the grass growing, the better! If you have any ground settling around the septic tank, this is normal! Give us a call and we are happy to come fix the issue. Please read through this material to be sure you are taking care of your system correctly! As always, call us with any questions!

MAINTENANCE OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM:

The most important maintenance action for the efficient use and longevity of a septic system is regular inspection and pumping. A system operates more effectively when the tank is no more than one-third full of scum and sludge. As these solids build up, it's more likely that some will drain out with the liquid waste into the drain field. We recommend pumping your tank every 3-5 years, depending on usage.

HOW IT WORKS:

Wastewater flows out of the sewer pipe from the house into the septic tank. Lighter solids, such as grease, soap scum and hair, float to the top of the tank. This is called the scum layer. Heavier solids drop to the bottom of the tank. A baffle or T-pipe is located approximately two-thirds up from the bottom of the tank. This baffle allows the liquids to leave the tank while keeping the solids in the tank until they can be pumped during regular maintenance.

The liquid waste, called effluent, enters the absorption field using gravity to feed the effluent evenly through the rows of pipes. This waste slowly percolates through the gravel base into the soil below where additional particles and pathogens are filtered out by the soil.

USING YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM:

- Conserve water in and around the home. Use low flow faucets and toilets, do laundry one load daily instead of all loads in one day. Fix leaky faucets and toilets to reduce the amount of water going into the system. Do not connect sump pumps to the septic system.
- Protect the system by marking the drain field boundaries. Do not drive cars or other heavy equipment over the absorption field. Do not plant deep-rooted trees or shrubs on the drain field. Keep the soil over the drain field slightly mounded to encourage precipitation to run off rather than soak into the system.
- Avoid putting chemicals in the system. Do not add chemicals to clean or increase bacteria in the system. They aren't needed and usually don't work.
- Limit use of your kitchen garbage disposal. Garbage disposals increase the amount of solids entering the system and could result in more frequent cleaning or system failure.
- Avoid putting these items in your system: fats, grease, oils, paint, poisons, pesticides, solvents, and coffee grounds. These can cause your system to work improperly and may shorten the life of the system.

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SIGNS OF SEPTIC SYSTEM ISSUES:

- Gurgling sounds in the pipes when water is used or the toilet is flushed
- Slow running or backing up drains may indicate a clog in the house pipes, the sewer pipe leading to the septic tank, the tank itself, the drain field or roof vent
- Sewer-type odors in the house or yard
- The ground over the drain field is mushy when you walk on it

(INFORMATION COURTESY OF MSU EXTENSION, SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO)



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