

## Avoiding trouble

- **DO** Have your system pumped every 3-5 years.
- **DO** Have an effluent filter placed in your septic tank.
- **DO** Contact your licensed technician for service every 1-2 years.
- **DO** Keep good records concerning your system.
- **DO** Repair all leaking plumbing fixtures, no matter how small the leak.
- **DO** Conserve water by avoiding long showers. Use washing machines, dishwashers and other water devices sparingly and evenly over a 7-day period.
- **DO** Divert gutter drains and rain water away from your tanks and drainfield.
- **DON'T** Use a garbage disposal
- **DON'T** Allow anyone to park or drive over your system.
- **DON'T** Dig into your drain field or build anything over the top of it.
- **DON'T** Make or allow repairs to be made to your system without first contacting your health department and a licensed technician.
- **DON'T** Use septic tank additives or enzymes of any kind.
- **DON'T** Dump non-biodegradable items such as grease, disposable diapers, sanitary pads, paper, plastics, and cigarette butts down your toilet or drains.
- **DON'T** Dump chemicals such as paint thinner, pesticides, perscription drugs, excessive amounts of cleaners, or detergents, or other hazardous substances into your system.
- **DON'T** Build a swimming pool near your system.

*You've spent thousands on your home and landscaping, an unfiltered septic tank allows solid waste materials to flow to your drainfield eventually clogging it. Don't let clogged drainfields cause this to happen to your backyard.*

Note: State law requires all septic tank installers and pumpers to have a license from the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board.



## SYSTEM RECORD

Use the following section to document information concerning your system

### Pretreatment

Septic Tank Size (gallons): \_\_\_\_\_  
Pump Tank Size (gallons): \_\_\_\_\_

Tank Type: ☐ Concrete ☐ Fiberglass ☐ Plastic ☐ ATU

Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_

### Drain Field

Type: ☐ Trenches ☐ Bed ☐ Gravel ☐ Tire Chips  
☐ Gravelless Pipe ☐ Leaching Chamber ☐ Styrofoam ☐ Drip

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Dimensions: \_\_\_\_\_

### Accessories

☐ Pump Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_ Model #: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Alarm Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_ Model #: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Curtain Drain ☐ Siphon

☐ Effluent Filter Model \_\_\_\_\_

☐ D-Box, Flow/Flow Divider (optional)

## Service Record

Date	Work Performed	Contractor

*Septic tank effluent contains harmful bacteria and pollutants that may cause illness. Please contact a professional to perform all service on your system.*

Licensed Technician

Brought to you by the

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH



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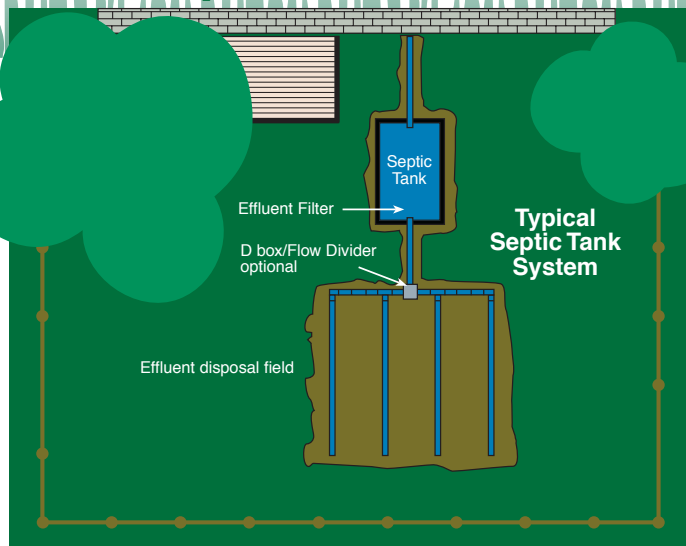
**Do not Discard**  
Important Information

## Your Septic Tank System

There's more  
than dirt and  
worms under  
your feet!



## What is a Septic Tank



Septic tank systems are individual wastewater treatment systems that collect, treat and dispose of wastewater. They are reliable, cost effective and efficient. Septic tank systems are used where municipal sewers are not available or are impractical.

Your septic tank system consists of four components: the **septic tank**, **effluent filter**, **distribution box or a Flow Divider (optional)**, and the **effluent disposal field or drain field**.

Your septic tank retains wastewater to separate solids from the liquid while some bacterial

digestion occurs. The **effluent filter** installed in your septic tank helps to retain the partially digested solid materials in the tank. Keeping the solid material away from your drain field is crucial to the proper operation of your system.

The D-box or **Flow Divider** splits the wastewater evenly and sends it on to the drain field. Your drain field is the last step in treating your waste. Wastewater enters level trenches that contain gravel and pipes. Wastewater moves through these trenches and into the surrounding soil. The soil cleans the wastewater so that it can be recycled to the groundwater below.

## Maintaining your Septic Tank System?

Your septic tank system should be properly maintained to assure years of trouble-free service. Contact your licensed technician to clean your septic tank and effluent filter every three - five years.

Proper maintenance of your septic tank system begins by installing an effluent filter in your septic tank. The filter will warn you when the system needs to be serviced. Failing to maintain your system will cause your system to fail.

Failing septic tank systems can:

- Endanger your family's health.
- Pollute the environment.
- Reduce your property value.
- Be expensive to repair.

Using an effluent filter and pumping your septic tank every 3-5 years will increase the life span of your system, prevent expensive repairs, and protect groundwater from harmful contamination.

**WARNING**  
signs of potential system problems:

- Wet spots in the yard.
- Slow draining toilets or drains.
- Gurgling sounds in your drains.
- Sewage odors.

