

## **Water Conservation Can Extend the Life of Your Septic System**

A typical three-bedroom home uses about 200-300 gallons of water per day. Approximately 50% comes from the bathroom itself. By reducing this flow, a homeowner can extend sewage capacity and the life of the system.

You can reduce water consumption by installing special conservation devices. Although most new homes already have these (you can check with your plumber to see what you currently have installed), many homes can save up to 50% of their water consumption using such devices. You can install them easily on sinks, showerheads, and toilet fixtures. Not only do these save water, but they save electricity associated with well pumps and hot water heaters...



*For more information, call the*

Queen Anne's County Health Department  
Division of Environmental Health at  
410-758-2281

# **Pocket Guide**

## **To Your Home Septic System**



## **Get To Know It Now Before It's Too Late**



*Courtesy of the*

**Queen Anne's County Health Department**

# A Backed Up Septic Tank is Unhealthy, Ugly, and Expensive

*Most of us take our septic systems for granted. It works, and we forget about it. But when it backs up into our bathtub or toilet, it's an experience we won't forget!*

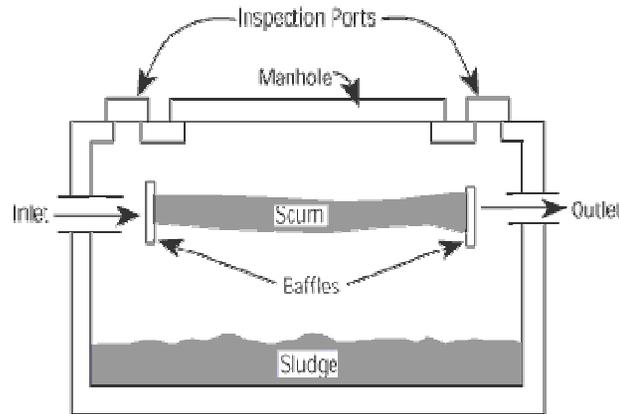
## Q – Why do septic tanks back up?

A – Your septic tank holds household wastes underground, where bacteria break them down gradually. The solid waste sinks to the bottom, and the liquid passes from the tank into the drain fields, where it is absorbed into the ground. When the tank gets full, the sludge moves into the drain field, where it blocks the flow. Eventually the drain pipe from your house to the tank backs up, and waste appears at the nearest drain appliance inside your home.

## Q – How can I delay this from happening?

A – One way: Have your septic tank pumped at least once every 5 years.

## Your Septic Tank



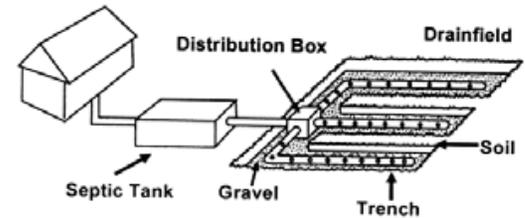
When the sludge builds up, it can pass into the drains fields, ruining your absorption system (drain fields).

## Q – How much is it to pump a septic tank?

A – Call a licensed septic cleaning service for an estimate or go to [www.qac.org](http://www.qac.org) for an updated list of liquid waste haulers.

## Q – What else can damage a tank system?

A – 1) Driving a vehicle over the place where the tank is buried, 2) tree roots, 3) toxic chemicals.



## Q – How can I tell if my tank needs pumping?

A – Call a licensed liquid waste hauler.

## Q – What should NOT go down the drain?

A – Grease, hair, toxic chemicals, large paper items.

## Q – What about special tablets or additives for the septic system?

A – The Queen Anne's County Health Department does not recommend any tablets or additives.

Septage haulers with permits at Queen Anne's County Sanitary District - 2008

Name	Address		Telephone
Annapolis Sanitation	713 Cox Sawmill Road	Centreville, MD 21617	410-758-2816
A-1 Sanitation Service, Inc.	1009 River Road	New Castle, DE 19720	302-322-1074
'A' Plus Sanitation	P. O. Box 72	Chestertown, MD 21620	410-778-9145
Burn's Septic	2360 Dairyland Drive	Westminister, MD 21158	410-848-2455
Earth Scapes, LLC, T/A Ruth Brothers Septic	202 Hunters Ridge Road	Centreville, MD 21617	410-758-1022
Green Septic	10600 Hyala Court	Chestertown, MD 21620	410-708-1191
Ken Burns Sanitation	P. O. Box 132	Ridgely, MD 21660	410-634-1215
Kent Island Septic Services, Inc.	61 Long Creek Drive	Stevensville, MD 21666	410-643-1828
Park's Septic, Sewer & Drain, Mr. Rooter Mid Shore	31035 Asches Acres Road	Cordova, MD 21625	410-820-8701
Pierson Comfort Group, LLC	28298 Bridgeville Road	Federalsburg, MD 21632	800-461-0032
Roto Rooter Sewer & Drain Service	P. O. Box 559	Easton, MD 21601	410-822-6345
Service Energy	1010 Washington Avenue	Chestertown, MD 21620	410-778-0002
Walls Septic Service	2900 Barclay Road	Marydel, MD 21649	410-490-6114