

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!

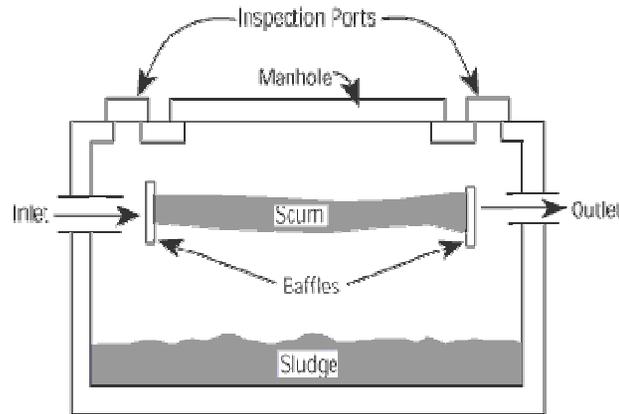
Q – Why do septic tanks back up?

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



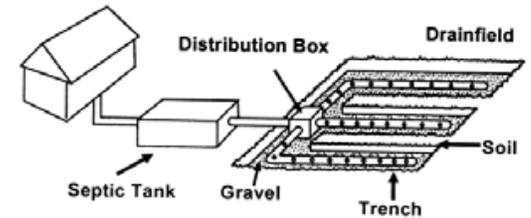
When the sludge builds up, it can pass into the drains fields, ruining your absorption system (drain fields).

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 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.