What You Should Know About Home Aerobic Sewage Treatment Systems

- All home aerobic sewage treat system manufacturers must be approved by the Ohio Department of Health before they can sell their system in Ohio.

- It is your responsibility to obtain the proper installation permit and an annual operation for your home sewage system from the health department.

- Your local health department is the first place to contact if you want to install a new sewage treatment system (STS), or alter, replace or abandon your existing sewage system. Local health departments will work with you to ensure a comprehensive review of your system, property and water use to determine the best solutions for proper wastewater treatment for your home, or to determine the correct repair of a malfunctioning system.

Did You Know...

Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department

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Zanesville, OH 43701
P: 740-454-9741 ext. 221
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Care & Maintenance of your Aerobic Sewage Treatment System

This type of system has a motor which causes air to mix with the wastewater in the aeration compartment. Oxygen-loving bacteria feed on the wastewater. When the system is treating properly, the discharged water appears clear and odorless.

Live bacteria in the aerobic tank provide biological treatment. Keep products harmful to bacteria out of the tank. Antibacterial soaps and disinfectant cleaners, excessive bleach, antibiotics, pesticides and poisons, drain cleaners, solvents, and automobile fluids are examples of harmful products.

Dead tank bacteria provide no treatment, resulting in little settling of suspended solids, rapid accumulation of sludge, and higher maintenance costs. A dead tank will cause the system to clog and fail if the condition is not corrected in time. An in-sink garbage disposal is not recommended, and if used, will require more frequent aerobic tank pumping.

System Maintenance:

Like any machine, your aerobic sewage treatment system requires periodic maintenance. You can perform some minor maintenance checks. However, actual maintenance will require the expertise and equipment of a registered service provider.

- Routine maintenance procedures which should be done at least once every 6 months by a qualified service professional: adjustment of the control panel, cleaning of aeration components, backwashing or cleaning filters, and visual inspection of the system discharge.

- At least every 3 to 5 years the entire system should be pumped to remove excess buildups of scum and sludge.

- Check your system manual for additional tips on proper operation and maintenance of your system.

- If you are ever in doubt, contact the local health department or a service provider for professional advice.

The proper operation of your system is important. Improperly operating systems create water pollution and health hazards. If your system does not operate properly, you are violating public health laws.

Flushing Facts:

DO NOT FLUSH:
- Coffee Grounds
- Dental Floss
- Disposable Diapers
- Kitty Litter
- Sanitary Napkins
- Tampons
- Cigarette Butts
- Condoms
- Gauze Bandages
- Fat, Grease, or Oil
- Paper Towels

NEVER FLUSH CHEMICALS...
- Paints
- Varnishes
- Thinners
- Waste Oils
- Photographic Solutions
- Pesticides