Existing System Evaluation Report for Onsite Wastewater Systems

State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Onsite Program
165 East Seventh Ave, Suite 100
Eugene, OR 97401

Please answer the following questions completely. Do not leave any blank responses. Write unknown if unknown. Refer to Oregon Administrative Rule 340-071-0155 for more information, and please visit:http://www.oregon.gov/deq/Residential/Pages/Septic-Smart.aspx

Septic System Owner-Provided Information:

Property Owner(s)(Sellers): Greg Vollmer Telephone: _____

Site Address: 31680 Ross Ln City: Corvallis Zip Code: 97330

County: Benton Lot Size: _____ Acres/Square Feet (circle units)

Legal Description: T12 R6 S25A TL528

Age of wastewater treatment system 52 (years) Is there a service contract for system components? na

Date the septic tank was last pumped 4/25/25 (please attach receipt if available)

Number of people occupying dwelling _____ If unoccupied, for how long has it been vacant? Unknown

Was this section completed by the evaluator because owner or agent was unavailable? _____

The above information is true and to the best of my knowledge.

5/5/25
Date (MM/DD/YYYY) Signature of Owner, or agent if present

Name of person performing evaluation (please print): Chris

Certification:

- ☑ Installer
- ☐ Maintenance Provider
- ☑ National Association of Wastewater Technicians
- ☐ Other: DEQ approved in writing (please describe)_____
- ☐ Professional Engineer
- ☐ Environmental Health Specialist
- ☐ Waste Water Specialist

Certification Number: RI115 NAWT 7942ITC

Business name Roto Rooter Email _____

Business address PO Box 291-Albany OR 97321 Phone 541-926-3775

Date of Evaluation: 4/25/25 (MM/DD/YYYY)

I hereby certify, by my signature, that I meet all of the qualifications required to perform onsite wastewater system evaluations in the state of Oregon pursuant to OAR 340-071-0155.

5/5/25 Debbie
Date (MM/DD/YYYY) Signature of Qualified Septic System Evaluator

1. **General System Information**

The Existing System Evaluation Report form contains 8 pages. Some of the questions on this form may not pertain to the system being evaluated, as there are many system designs. If you (the septic system evaluator) are unable to answer any of the questions on this form please indicate, in writing, why this information was not available at the time the evaluation was completed.

- The existing septic system consists of (check all that apply):

☑ Septic Tank	☐ Cesspool
☐ Dosing Tank	☑ Disposal Trenches/ Leach Lines
☐ Multi-compartment Tank	☐ Capping Fill
☐ Seepage Bed	☐ Sand Filter
☐ Other _____	

Note: Cesspools may be used only to serve existing sewage loads and if failing only be replaced with a seepage pit system on lots that are too small to accommodate a standard system or other alternative onsite system.

There is a permit for the septic system ☑Yes ☐No ☐Unknown

- Permit Number(s) 2444
- Year original septic system installed: 1973 (YYYY) ☐No record of installation date
- Dates of subsequent repairs or alterations: _____ (YYYY)
- All plumbing fixtures are connected to the septic system ☑Yes ☐No ☐Unknown

  If you answered "No" or "unknown," please describe below:

- Additional Comments:

2. **Overall Septic System Status**

- Discharge of sewage to the ground surface ☐Yes ☐No ☑None observed
- Discharge of sewage to surface waters ☐Yes ☐No ☑None observed
- Sewage backup into plumbing fixtures ☐Yes ☐No ☑Unknown
- Additional Comments:
  System was not taking water properly at time of inspection - see comments #5

3. **Septic tank**

In order to fully describe the condition of the tank, the septic tank may need to be pumped. Please indicate below if the septic system tank was pumped during the course of *this* evaluation.

- Septic tank was pumped during the course of *this* evaluation ☑Yes ☐No
- If the septic tank was **NOT pumped** during the course of *this* evaluation, please explain (e.g. septic system owner declined to have the tank pumped etc):

- The septic tank material is:
  - ☑ Concrete
  - ☐ Steel
  - ☐ Plastic
  - ☐ Fiberglass
  - ☐ Other (explain)_____
  - ☐ Unknown
- Is the septic tank accessible? ☑Yes ☐No
- Septic tank volume in gallons 1000
- Tank volume determined by: Check all that apply, add comments below as needed
  ☐ Permit Records ☑ Measured ☐ Stamped on Tank ☐ Other
- Septic tank risers are at ground level ☑Yes ☐No
- Tank appears to be free from defects, leaking and signs of deterioration ☑Yes ☐No
  If you answered "No," please describe the condition of the septic tank below. For example, evidence of gas corrosion, cracks, leaks, etc.

- Septic tank lid(s) is intact ☑Yes ☐No
- Septic tank baffles are intact: Inlet ☑Yes ☐No Outlet ☑Yes ☐No
- Baffle material - Inlet ☐Plastic ☑Concrete ☐Metal Outlet ☐Plastic ☑Concrete ☐Metal
  Effluent filter is present ☐Yes ☑No
- Effluent filter is free of debris ☐Yes ☐No ☑Not Applicable
- Liquid level in tank relative to invert of outlet ☐At ☑Above ☐Below
  If above or below invert outlet, please explain: Did not pass water test
- **Scum** layer 4 (inches) **Sludge** layer 3 (inches)
- **Scum** and **Sludge** layer more than 35% of the *total* tank volume ☐Yes ☑No
  Indicate where sludge measured from: ☐Inlet ☑Middle ☐Outlet
- Additional Comments:

4. **Dosing tank / Pump Basin**

   Dosing tanks use a pump to send effluent to a treatment unit or a soil absorption field.

- The septic system has a dosing tank ☐Yes ☑No
  (If "No," skip the rest of section 4)
- At the time of this evaluation the power was on to test the pump(s): ☐Yes ☐No

- Dosing tank capacity _____(gallons)
- Tank volume determined by: Check all that apply, add comments below as needed
  ☐ Permit Records ☐ Measured ☐ Stamped on Tank ☐ Other
- Dosing tank material_____
- Dosing tank appears to be watertight and in good condition ☐Yes ☐No
- Dosing tank lid is intact ☐Yes ☐No
- Electrical components are sealed and watertight ☐Yes ☐No
- Pump/ siphon is functional ☐Yes ☐No
- Type of Pump ☐Demand dose ☐Time dose
- Pump control mechanism is functional (floats, pressure transducer) ☐Yes ☐No
- There is a high water alarm ☐Yes ☐No
- The high water alarm (audible and visual) is working ☐Yes ☐No ☐Not Applicable
- Type of screen_____
- Screen is clean and free of debris ☐Yes ☐No - Screen cleaned for this evaluation ☐Yes ☐No
- Scum/ sludge present in Dosing tank ☐Yes ☐No
- **Scum** layer _____(inches) **Sludge** layer_____(inches)
- Additional Comments:

_____

_____

5. **Soil absorption system**

The soil absorption system is a set of trenches that receives effluent from the septic tank and filters the effluent before it enters the groundwater.

- The septic system has a soil absorption system ☑Yes ☐No ☐Unknown
- Was the soil absorption system part of the evaluation? ☑Yes ☐No ☐See note below

  If the soil absorption system was not evaluated, please explain below (for example unable to locate, client did not authorize this part of the evaluation):

  _____

  _____

- Absorption distribution ☑Equal ☐Serial ☐Pressure ☐Equal via pressure
- Absorption lines construction material:

☑ Gravel and pipe ☐ Chamber ☐ Tile ☐ Polystyrene foam and pipe ☐Other_____

- Absorption distribution unit(s): ☐dropbox ☐hydrosplitter ☑equal distribution box

☑ Intact ☐ Damaged ☐ N/A

- Absorption distribution unit(s) are free of debris or solids ☑Yes ☐No ☐ N/A

- Locate all drain lines in soil absorption system ☑Yes ☐No

  Total length of drain lines 200 (ft)

  Lengths determined by ☑Physically uncovering portions of system/probing ☐Written records ☐Fish tape ☐Electronic locator ☐ camera

- Absorption area appears to be **free** from roads, vehicular traffic, structures, livestock, deep-rooted plants etc.

  ☑Yes ☐No

  If you answered "No," please describe below:

- Absorption area appears to be **free** from surface water runoff and down spouts ☑Yes ☐No
- Evidence of ponding in absorption area or distribution unit(s) ☑Yes ☐No
- The soil absorption system replacement area assigned in the permit record appears to be intact:

  ☐Yes ☐No ☑ Replacement area not identified in permit record

  If you answered "No," please explain below:

- Additional Comments:

  At time of inspection the system wasn't accepting water properly. We returned on 5/2/25 and flushed all three lines. North line 100' Center and South Lines apx 50' each also flushed tight line apx 24' to tank. The drainfield is now accepting water and system is working as intended.

6. **Sand Filter System**

There are different sand filter system designs used in Oregon. Not every sand filter system will contain all of the components mentioned below, e.g. pumps. The owner of a sand filter system **permitted on or after January 2, 2014** *must* maintain an annual service contract with a certified Maintenance Provider. Maintenance records should be available from the system owner, or the contracted Maintenance Provider. **Please attach copies of the previous two years of maintenance records to this evaluation form.**

- The septic system has a sand filter ☐Yes ☑No

  (If "No," skip the rest of section 6)

- Type of sand filter

  ☐ Intermittent
  ☐ Recirculating
  ☐ Bottomless

- Sand filter container appears free from defects, leaks and signs of deterioration: ☐Yes ☐No

- Sand filter unit appears to be **free** from roads, vehicular traffic, structures, livestock, deep-rooted plants etc.

  ☐Yes ☐No

  If you answered "No," please describe below:

  _____

  _____

  _____

- Sand filter appears to be **free** from surface water runoff and down spouts ☐Yes ☐No
- Evidence of ponding in/ on sand filter media surface ☐Yes ☐No
- Surface access to manifold and valves ☐Yes ☐No
- Monitoring ports are present ☐Yes ☐No
- Lateral lines flushed and equal distribution verified ☐Yes ☐No
- The sand filter has a pump ☐Yes ☐No

  (If "No", skip the rest of section 6)
- Pump vault appears to be watertight and in good condition ☐Yes ☐No ☐N/A
- Pump is functional ☐Yes ☐No
- Pump control mechanism is functional (floats, pressure transducer) ☐Yes ☐No
- High water alarm in pump vault (audible and visual) is working ☐Yes ☐No
- Pump electrical components are sealed and watertight ☐Yes ☐No

- Additional Comments:

  _____

  _____

  _____

7. **Alternative Treatment Technology System**
   The owner of an ATT system *must* maintain an annual service contract with a certified Maintenance Provider. Maintenance records should be available from the system owner, or the contracted Maintenance Provider. **Please attach copies of the previous two years of maintenance records to this evaluation form.**

   Note* Some ATT systems may have a WPCF permit. Please contact the local Health Department or the DEQ to obtain a copy of the WPCF permit.

- The septic system has an **Alternative Treatment Technology (ATT)** ☐Yes ☑No
  (If "No," skip the rest of section 7)
- Please provide the product name, system ID number, and manufacturer name below:

Product name _____
System ID number _____
Manufacturer name _____

- Previous two years of maintenance records are available ☐Yes ☐No
  If you answered "No," please explain below:

  _____
  _____
  _____

- Previous two years of maintenance records are attached to this form ☐Yes ☐No
  If you answered "No," please explain below:

  _____
  _____

- Additional Comments:

  _____
  _____
  _____

8. **Please attach a copy** of the following items to this form. Contact the DEQ, or the local Health Department to locate these items.
- The septic system permit(s) to this form, if available
- The as-built drawing(s) to this form, if available
- The Certificate of Satisfactory Completion to this form, if available
- Additional Comments:

  _____
  _____
  _____

9. **Provide a Site Plan**
- Please provide a sketch of the complete system (show only system components that were evaluated) on page 8 of this form, if a copy of the original "as-built" drawing is *not* available.
- Please provide a sketch of the complete system on page 8 of this form if the original "as-built" drawing is *not* accurate or representative of the existing system.
- If the original "as-built" drawing is available for copy, and the original appears to be accurate and representative of the existing system, write "see attached as-built" on page 8 of this form, redrawing the system is unnecessary.
- Additional Comments:

  _____
  _____
  _____

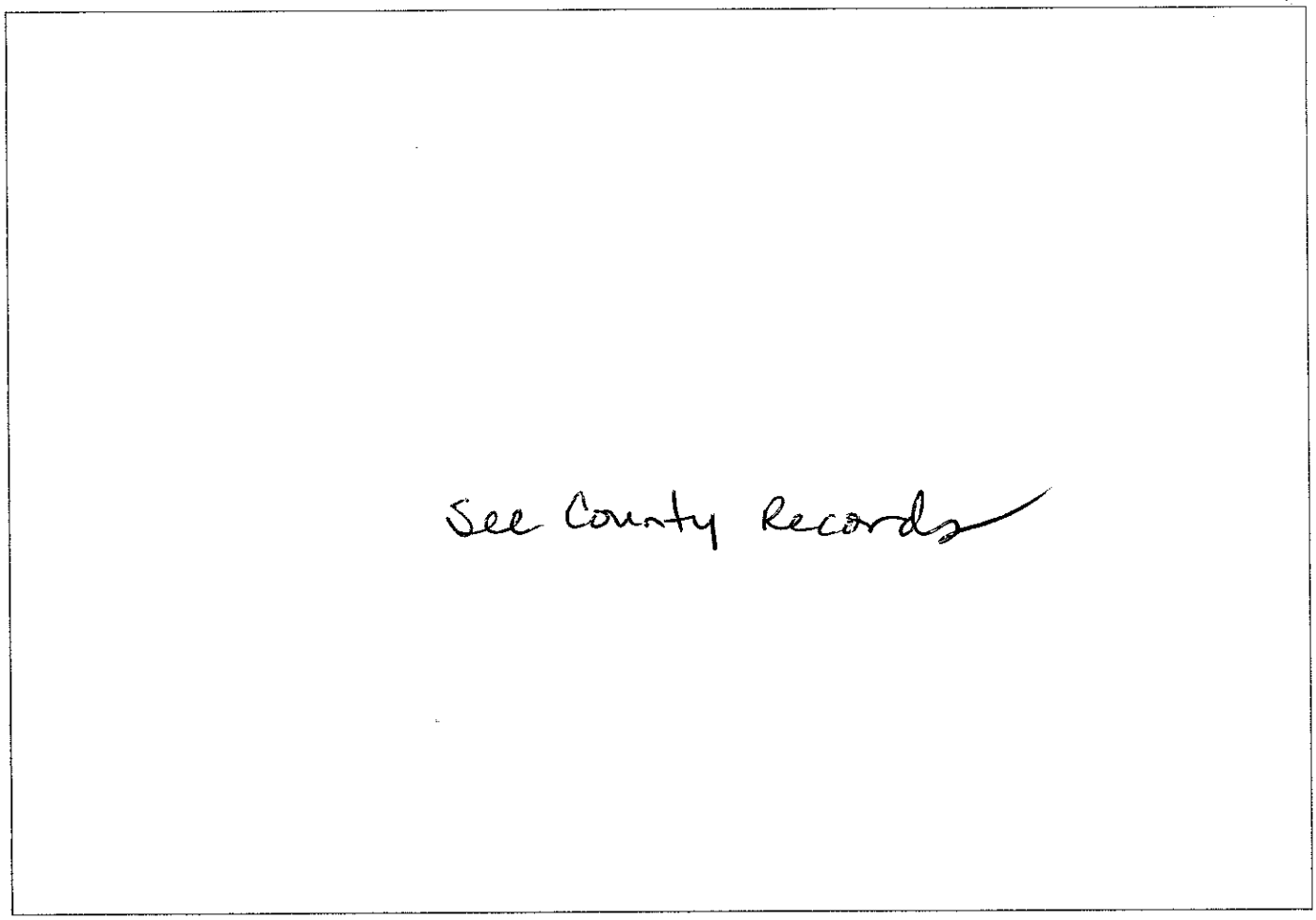
10. **Disclaimer:**
    This evaluation report describes the septic system as it exists on the date of evaluation and to the extent that components and operation of the system are reasonably observable. DEQ recognizes that this evaluation report does not provide assurance or any warranty that the system will operate properly in the future.

11. I hereby certify, by my signature, that the above information and the plot plan on the next page of this form are accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

5/5/25 Debra Olivas

Date Signature of Qualified Septic System Evaluator

Provide a Plot Plan in the space below: Show the actual or best estimate measurements that locate the existing septic tank, disposal trenches, property lines, easements, existing structures, driveways, and water supply (water lines and wells). **Draw to scale and indicate the direction north.**



DISCLAIMER

Based on what we were able to observe, combined with our experience in wastewater technology, we submit this Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Inspection Report evaluating the present condition of the system as it appears today. We have not been retained to warrant, guarantee, or certify the proper functioning of the system for any period of time in the future. Because of the numerous factors (rainfall, usage, soil characteristics, previous failures, etc.) which may affect the proper operation of a wastewater treatment system, this report shall not be construed as a warranty by our inspection of the septic system or notations made in this report. We also are not able to ascertain the impact that the system now has, or will have, on the environment. Furthermore, unless otherwise noted, we are unable to determine the integrity of the tank baffles, distribution box, or the drain field lines themselves. If a system failure other than what is identified occurs within 30 days of this report, liability is limited to a refund of the inspection report fee only.

Introduced water for approximately 30 minutes. Did the system accept it adequately? X Yes ____ No

After drain field flush

FAST EMERGENCY SERVICE

ROTO-ROOTER

SEWER & SEPTIC TANK SERVICE

P.O. Box 291 – Albany, OR 97321
CCB #137352

Date 5-2-25

Albany Phone: 541.926.3775
Corvallis Phone: 541.753.2150
Lebanon Phone: 541.451.1770

NAME Guy Vollmer PHONE

ADDRESS 31640 Ross Ln CITY Corvallis

JOB ADDRESS PO# INVOICE #

COMMENTS Off North line
100' draining Good
Center 50' draining Some
South line 50' draining Good
at D-Box outgoing line
18'

CALLED BY

ROOTS GREASE SCALE OTHER

FOOTAGE CLEANED LOCATION

TV/LOCATE $

CLEAR & CLEAN LINES $

SEPTIC TANK CLEANED $

Off $ 475.00

CHARGE PAID V.D

SIGNED

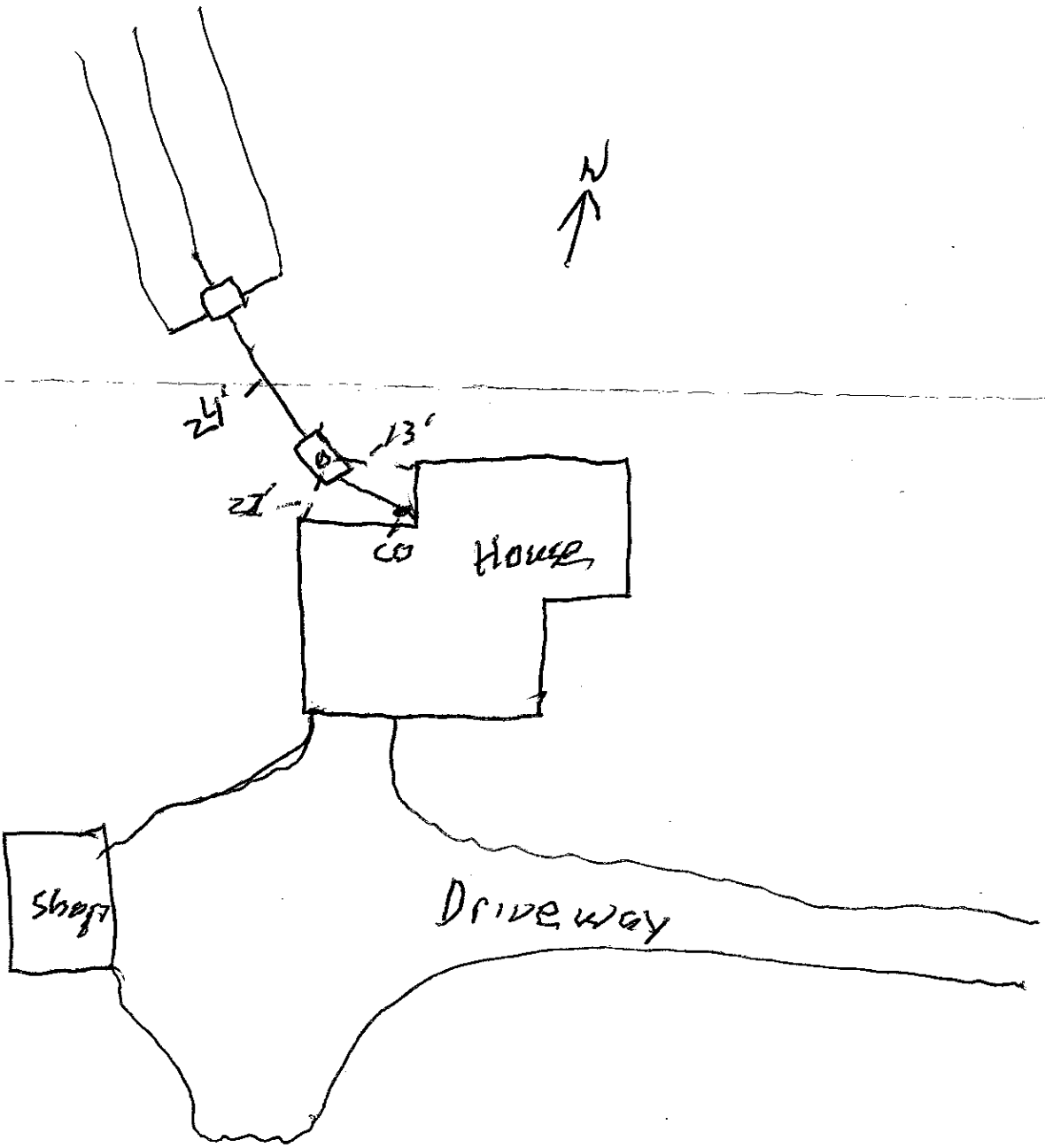
11

$

$

TOTAL $ 475.00

1 1/2 per month charged on overdue accounts


N
24'
13'
21'
CO
House
Shop
Driveway

Follow these septic system DO's and DON'TS !!!

DO'S	DON'TS
Conserve water	Overload system
Substitute for bleach and ammonia cleaners	Flush medicines and hazardous materials down drain
Plant grass on drainfield	Plant deep rooted plants near tank or drainfield
Know location of all system components	Park, drive on, or allow animals access to drainfield
Perform periodic septic system maintenance and inspections	Wait until there is a problem before inspecting your septic system

Don't Flush Household Hazardous Waste! Visit the HHW website for the drop-off location nearest to you!

www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/hhw/events.htm

Or call 1-800-732-9253

Why You Care About Your Septic System

Protect Your Investment

It is typically much cheaper to properly maintain a working septic system than it is to repair or replace a failing septic system.

Protect Community Health

Septic system owners, their neighbors, and the surrounding community run the risk of coming into contact with harmful bacterial and viral pathogens when septic systems are not properly maintained.

Protect Drinking Water

Septic systems that are not working properly can contaminate groundwater sources. More than 70% of all Oregonians are at least partially dependent on groundwater for their drinking water supplies!

Protect Environment

Septic systems that are not working properly can contaminate surface waters, which disrupts natural systems and impairs aquatic and riparian life.

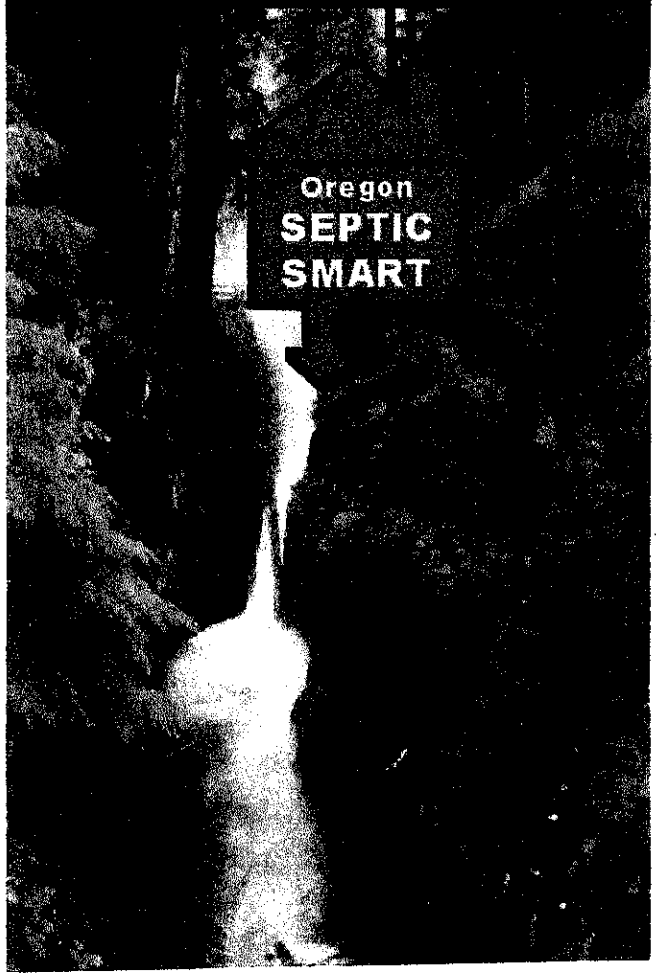
DEQ
State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Water Quality
Onsite Program
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: 541-686-7905
www.deq.state.or.us

Be Septic Smart

DEQ
State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

What every HOMEOWNER needs to know about SEPTIC SYSTEMS



Your Septic System...
is Your Responsibility!

Septic systems are designed to collect and purify the water that goes down the drains in your home. There are two main parts to a conventional septic system.

1) Septic Tank

The septic tank is a watertight container buried in the ground. It is designed to collect all of the sewage that comes from your home. For example, every time you flush a toilet, or do a load of laundry, you are sending sewage to your septic tank. When sewage enters the septic tank, the solids sink to the bottom of the tank (sludge) and oils float to the top of the tank (scum). All of the liquid between the sludge and scum layers is called wastewater. Once the tank is full, wastewater flows from the septic tank to the drainfield.

2) Drainfield

The drainfield, also called leach field, typically consists of a series of trenches that sit below the ground. These trenches are filled with a porous material and covered with soil. Wastewater from the septic tank flows into the trenches. Microbes then treat the wastewater, as it moves down through the soil profile below the trenches.

Microbes are responsible for treating your waste!

The microbes are doing *their* job, but what can *you* do to keep your system working properly? Follow these guidelines for Operation and Maintenance of your septic system.

Operation:

The first step in keeping your septic system working is to make sure that you and your family are *using* it properly. Of course, *never* flush materials that are hard to decompose down your drains. For example, cigarette butts, hair and food scraps are not septic friendly! Check out a list of DO'S and DON'TS for septic systems on the back of this brochure!

Maintenance:

Your septic system will need periodic maintenance even when you and a healthy microbial population are doing the job properly. Having periodic septic system inspections can help to save you thousands of dollars in expensive repairs or even system replacement!

Visit :

Oregon Septic Smart

and

EPA Septic Smart

to learn more about being **SEPTIC SMART!**

Have questions? Call 541-686-7905

Follow These Important Guidelines!

- Know where all of your septic system components are located.

This is a crucial first step in proper septic system maintenance. Schedule an "Existing System Evaluation" with a certified **Onsite Wastewater Inspector** if you do not know where the septic tank, distribution lines and drainfield are located.

- Check for sludge and scum levels in your septic tank.

When the bottom of the scum layer is within 6 inches of the bottom of the outlet tee, or the top of the sludge layer is within 12 inches of the bottom of the outlet tee, your tank needs to be pumped. You can measure this yourself, or you can hire a certified **Onsite Wastewater Inspector** to check it for you.

- Have regular septic system inspections completed by a certified **Onsite Wastewater Inspector**.

Typical gravity-fed systems should be inspected at least every three years. Alternative treatment technology systems (ATTs) and sand filter systems should be inspected every year*.

****Owners** of ATT and sand filter systems, installed after January 1, 2014, *must* maintain a Service Contract with a certified maintenance provider. The maintenance provider must inspect the system at least once every year and submit a report and required fees to the DEQ.

Fact Sheet

Plan Ahead to Protect Septic Systems

DEQ
State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Water Quality
Onsite Program
165 E. 7th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97201
Phone: (541)687-7338
(800) 844-8467
Fax: (541) 686-7551
Contact: Randy Trox
www.oregon.gov/DEQ

Construction and landscaping activities can damage existing septic systems

Construction activities, such as remodeling a home or installing a swimming pool or hot tub, and landscaping activities should **not** interfere with the function of an existing onsite wastewater system (septic system).

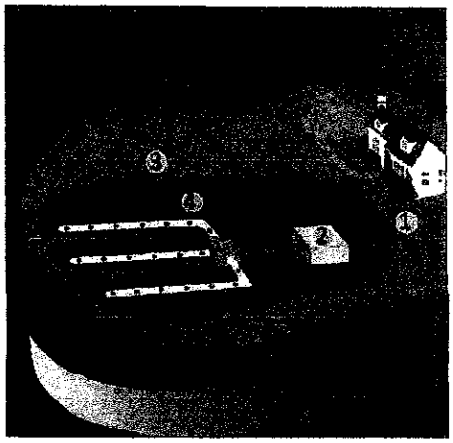
It is important to plan ahead before performing any work near or around an existing septic system. Continue reading to learn more!

Know the location of all system components BEFORE you begin work!

Construction on or near a septic system can damage the tank, distribution unit(s), leach lines also known as drainfield and soil. The best way to prevent damage to a septic system is to KNOW where all of the system components are located BEFORE you begin any construction or landscaping activities.

The picture below is a simple illustration, which shows the location of all of the septic system components relative to the location of the house.

Every septic system is different, so check with the system owner to find out where everything is located.



Septic system components: 1) water moves through plumbing in the home to the septic tank; 2) solids settle in the bottom of septic tank 3) wastewater moves to drainfield 4) drainfield distributes wastewater into soil for treatment.

The "DO's and DON'Ts" of working near septic systems

Follow this list of "DO's and DON'Ts" to prevent damaging the existing septic system. Something as simple as driving over the soil on top of the drainfield can result in expensive system repairs or even system replacement.

DO:

- Locate ALL system components *and* the future replacement area BEFORE construction or landscaping begins
- Monument the septic system components, so it is easy to visually identify the location of subsurface components
- Maintain septic system setbacks when installing or enlarging drinking water wells
- Landscape with shallow-rooted plants and grass near septic system

DON'T:

- Drive vehicles over any part of the septic system including the drainfield
- Place soil or other construction materials over system components
- Stage construction materials over system components
- Wash paint or other hazardous materials down drains which empty into septic system
- Construct structures (homes, pole barns, driveways, cement pads, sheds, pools etc) over system components, including the repair area
- Connect pools, hot tubs, floor drains to septic system
- Plant deep-rooted plants like trees and shrubs near tank or drainfield
- Install artificial ponds or gutter down spouts on or near system components

If you and the property owner are not sure where all of the system components are located than contact your local Environmental Health Department and ask for the septic system "as-built" drawing.

Last Updated: 5/7/2014
By: P. Woolverton

Got Septic? A Few Important Things to Keep in Mind by Brian Rabe, CPSS, WWS

If you don't pay a sewer bill, then you better have a septic system, also known as an onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS). More than one third of Oregon residences have some kind of OWTS to treat their wastewater. It is very important to understand and take good care of what you have because replacing it can be an expensive proposition.

Septic systems come in a wide variety of sizes with an ever increasing array of components from the simple septic tank and drainfield with no moving parts to complex systems with pumps, blowers, alarms, and other components. The following is a presentation of some basic principles to help you, as the owner of a septic system, to better understand what you have and how to take care of it.

Where is it? It is important to know what you have and where it is. What you don't know can hurt you. If you don't know about your system, you can't avoid damaging it or do routine or preventive maintenance. If your septic system is newer than the mid-1970's, the county should have a file on the system with at least some information (hopefully an as-built drawing with a list of materials). Learn as much as you can about your system. If necessary, create your own map of what you have and where things are and keep it in a file with other important household papers.

Septic Tank. All OWTS in Oregon are required to have a septic tank. Septic tanks are often made of concrete, but can be made of plastic, fiberglass, and even steel. Each of these materials has its benefits and limitations and some will deteriorate to the point of needing replaced much sooner than others. The primary purpose of the septic tank is the separate solids from liquids. Some solids sink while others float. The intent is for the solids to remain in the septic tank while the fluids move through to the next step. Some digestion of solids occurs in the tank, but homeowners need to be wary of additives that claim to aid in the digestion process or reduce the need to do routine maintenance (such as pumping). Most of these products simply allow the solids to leave the tank in a different form, often overloading the drainfield. Septic tanks should be pumped by a DEQ-licensed pumper every few years – the frequency depends on the size of the tank and the number of occupants in the home and their habits. The more people, the more often pumping is required. The larger the tank, the less often pumping is required. Use of a garbage disposal will also require pumping the septic tank more often to protect the drainfield from finely ground solids.

Drainfield. The drainfield is critically important to providing safe and effective treatment of the effluent in order to protect the people who live in the home and in the neighborhood as well as the general environment. The soil and its condition is the key to the performance and longevity of the drainfield. The drainfield should be kept free of heavy and/or frequent traffic from vehicles, livestock, or other sources of compaction. Ideally, the surface of the drainfield has a permanent grass cover periodically cut to keep it actively growing. This supports a healthy condition whereby air is better able to penetrate the soil to support treatment and roots are able to take up water and nutrients from the effluent. Irrigation over the drainfield should be avoided since the additional water could adversely affect the treatment conditions in the soil or wash contaminants out of the active treatment zone.

Erma Bombeck is often quoted as having said, "The grass is always greener over the septic tank." That is not exactly correct since the shallow soil layer over the top of the tank usually runs out of moisture and the grass turns brown. However, the grass is often greener over the drainfield trenches. This is a good thing unless it is also soggy and smelly, in which case your soil may be overloaded or clogged (or both). This situation needs immediate attention because untreated sewage on the ground surface is a hazard to people, pets, and the environment. Brown stripes in the lawn often indicate where drainfield trenches are that may not be receiving effluent.

User Habits Matter. What we put down the drain has a tremendous impact on the performance of our septic system. For example:

Too much water can saturate the drainfield so use low flow fixtures wherever possible, fix leaks and drips promptly, and don't use more water than necessary (i.e., limit long showers). Insulate your pipes and install heat tapes to avoid the common recommendation to let faucets drip during cold weather.

Toxic substances can kill the good bacteria, so use anti-bacterial products that go down the drain sparingly. Although bleach kills bacteria, prudent use is fine. Avoid washing paint, solvents, and other harsh chemicals down the drain. Do not flush old or unwanted medications (put them in the trash). Many of these compounds or their ingredients are able to pass through the OWTS without sufficient treatment and can pollute groundwater or surface water. Do not pour cooking oils or grease down the drain. Detergents can react with them and they can flow through the septic tank and clog the soil and cause the drainfield to fail.

As homeowners or tenants that enjoy living outside the city, it is our responsibility to make sure that the sewage we generate does not endanger the health of our families, our neighbors, or the environment. Take a little time to become better informed. There are hundreds of people across the state that are able to help answer questions or solve a problem. Personnel at the local environmental health department or Department of Environmental Quality are there to provide infor-