



Septic Tank and Mound - Operation & Maintenance

1. Septic tank
 - a. The permit requires the tank to be pumped every eight years, at a minimum. Some tanks may benefit from more frequent pumping, based on the size of the tank and the number of people.
 - b. Clean the effluent filter every six months or annually at a minimum.
 - c. Avoid dumping/flushing fats, oils, greases, non-biodegradable products, bacterial additives, excessive cleaning supplies, etc. down toilets and drains.
2. Dosing or pump chamber
 - a. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the pump. Electrical parts and conduit should be checked for erosion.
 - b. Check the pump chamber, pump, and floats every year. Replace or repair as needed.
 - c. If there is an alarm panel, test every six months or less.
 - d. Protect the mound from overloading after a power outage or pump failure. Effluent will continue to collect until the pump operates. With additional effluent in the chamber, it may pump more than the mound can handle. If the chamber is full, the plumbing in your home can start to back up. When the pump is off for more than 6 hours, reduce your water usage to a minimum.
3. The mound
 - a. Maintain grass or other vegetative cover over the mound to maximize water uptake and prevent erosion. Look for excess water around the mound.
 - b. Avoid traffic and construction on the mound. This could compact the soil or damage the distribution lines in the mound.
 - c. The distribution lines in the mound should be flushed annually.
 - d. All surface water should be directed away from the mound.