

Why are septic waste disposal systems important?

By MIKE MATTOX
Licking River Valley
Resource Conservation &
Development Council

Did you know that 40 percent of homes in Kentucky rely on septic systems to dispose of their waste? This is important because the proper disposal of human sewage is necessary to prevent disease and contamination of ground and surface water.

According to an article in the New York Times over 175,000 miles of waterways have been polluted in the United States. Water is a resource that cannot be renewed. Groundwater, rivers and streams are our source of drinking water. The more we pollute our source waters, the more difficult and expensive it is to treat it and make it suitable for drinking.

By making sure your septic system is working properly you can help protect this important natural resource.

How do septic systems work?

Did you know that a septic system consists of more than just a septic tank? A standard septic system consists of four basic parts: the septic tank, distribution box, drainfield and the soil. Each part has its own special function and each is necessary for the system to work properly. This means it not only disposes of the waste, it also cleans it. Here's how:

Drawing of a conventional septic system.

Sewage consists of human waste. Anything flushed or poured down a drain ends up in the septic tank. When sewage enters the septic tank

from the house it is separated into three parts: heavy solids that sink to the bottom of the tank to form sludge, light liquids that float to the top and are sandwiched between the sludge and the scum. It is important that only the liquid goes out of the tank and into the drainfield. If solids get into the tank cause it to retain the sludge and scum. The liquid part flows out of the tank into the distribution box. The job of the distribution box (also called the D box) is to equally distribute the liquid into each of the lateral lines making up the drainfield. Once the liquid enters the drainfield, it seeps into the soil. Because the soil particles are so close together they can filter out the bacteria, which will be killed by oxygen that is pulled along behind the downward moving water. That is why it is so important to have good soil. If the soil particles are packed too tightly, the waste will not be able to move down.

How much water can my septic system handle? Did you know that your septic tank is always full! If you run 100 gallons of water in the house, then 100 gallons flows to your tank, and pushes 100 gallons out of it into your drainfield. For a family of four, the average amount of water should be around 165-200 gallons per day. This means your septic system must be able to handle 165-200 gallons of water per day.

If it is properly sized, designed according to site and soil conditions, and is well

maintained, it should handle this wastewater instantly. That's good to know!

What causes a septic system to fail? Did you know that all septic systems, no matter how well they are maintained, eventually fail! Most septic systems rely on soil to absorb and filter wastewater and will fail when the soil becomes clogged. Clogged soil is unavoidable. It will eventually happen. It is important to understand that there are two types of failures: disposal failure and treatment failure. Disposal failure is when sewage backs up into the house or surbles on the lawn and occurs when the soil is unable to absorb wastewater. Treatment failure is when sewage is not adequately treated before reaching our water supply. Unlike disposal failures, treatment failures are not always detectable to the homeowner. Both are potentially dangerous to human health and the environment and when a system fails it should be repaired or replaced.

How can I prolong the life of my septic system and protect groundwater? Did you know that a well-designed and maintained septic system may have a life of up to 40 years? Your local health department will design your system but it will be up to you to take care of it. Here are a few measures you can take to get the most out of (or into!) your septic system.

- Have your tank inspected and pumped every three to five years. If you have a garbage disposal then have it

inspected and pumped every two to three years.

- Conserve water. Be aware of how much water your system was designed to handle then DO NOT exceed that amount. Install low-volume flush toilets and low-flow showerheads. Repair all leaks.
- Divert surface water flow away from your drainfield.
- Avoid compacting soil over your system by keeping heavy vehicles off the drainfield.
- Do not flush chemicals, disposable diapers, paper towels, feminine products and other non-flushable trash can, but a system to treat human sewage.

A well-designed and maintained septic system protects human health and the environment. Contact your local health department for more information.

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CITY OF CARLISLE
ORDINANCE NO 3-2001
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 53.01 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO A DEPOSIT FOR GAS SERVICE, RAISING THE DEPOSIT TO \$300.00 AND ALLOWING PAYMENT OF \$150.00 OF THE DEPOSIT IN THREE (3) EQUAL PAYMENTS OF \$50.00

Be it ordained by the City of Carlisle:

Section 1. That Section 53.01 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Carlisle be and hereby is amended and re-enacted to read as follows: SECTION 53.01 APPLICATION FOR SERVICE; DEPOSITS.

(A) Before any person can become a gas customer of the City or in any way hook onto or use the gas system of the City, that person shall file an application with the Mayor, requesting service. A list of applicants shall be maintained by the City Clerk/Treasurer from which list the Mayor shall consider applications in the order in which they were filed, giving priority to persons who reside within or own property within the corporate limits of the City. (Ord. Passed 12-9-74)

(B) Before gas service is furnished to new customers, deposits shall be required for the following amounts. Upon termination of the service, the deposits will be returned to the customer provided his account is paid up, otherwise the deposits will be applied to the unpaid account.

(1) Business customers shall pay a Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollar \$150.00 deposit for gas service.

(2) Residential customers shall pay a Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollar \$150.00 deposit for gas service.

(3) The deposit for gas service may be paid in installments on a monthly basis, as follows:

(a) A minimum of One Hundred and Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars is due prior to service.

(b) The promissory note for the balance, without interest, shall be executed by the customer.

(c) The balance, due of One Hundred and Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars shall be paid in three (3) equal payments for gas service.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage, approval, and publication in full as required by law.

Introduced and First Reading: Regular Meeting, March 12, 2001
Second Reading and Enactment: Regular Meeting, April 9, 2001
Published in full: April 12, 2001.

CITY OF CARLISLE, KENTUCKY
BY: RONNIE CLARK
Ronnie Clark Mayor

Fleming man found dead

A Fleming County man was found dead Saturday, April 7, at his residence in Hillsboro from a gunshot wound to the head, police said.

Kentucky State Police said the victim is Lee Roy Caudill, 66. No foul play is suspected. The incident remains under investigation by Det. David Owen.

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Turkey season outlook

By Lee McClellan

world famous horse farms. "It's good all over!" exclaimed George Wright, turkey program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR). Hard work and good management by agency personnel is primarily responsible for the expansion of wild turkey numbers in Kentucky.

A cold winter this year should place the spring turkey season at the peak of the mating season. The mild winters of previous years caused the peak of turkey numbers to be a little ahead of the hunting season.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in connection with the sale, rental, or financing of housing call the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights 1-800-250-5566.

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Located four (4) miles north of Flemingsburg, KY on Taylor Mill Rd., one (1) mile off Hwy. 11. Auction signs post.

TRACTORS: Massey Ferguson 285 diesel, ps, 1570 hrs., dual reclamation, one owner, International 3414 diesel, w/ front loader, 3 pt. PTO; Ford 8N. **TRAILERS:** 1997 Eby Maverick 20 ft. cattle gooseneck (like new); 1991 Hillsboro flatbed gooseneck 20 ft. w/4 ft. dove (hardly used); 2 wheel dump trailer 8'x8'. **HAY & CATTLE EQUIPMENT:** For-most cattle chute w/wheels, & palpation cage, 10 ft. bushhog, 5 ft. bushhog-pull type, 6 ft. bushhog - 3 pt., 7 ft. bushhog - 3 pt., bushhog disc mower 6 ft., Gram-O-Vator feed wagon w/ hay auger, Gehl 1070 haybine, Vermeer 504-C rollbar, MF 3 pt. mower, IH disc 350 10ft., Minneapolis-Moline 8 ft. disc, harrower 10 ft w/ wings, 12 ft. cullipacker, two scraper blades, 3 pt. soil conditioner, JD 8200 drill w/grass attachments, NH 255 hay rake, 5 flatbed wagons-JD, Kory gears-10 ton, 4 hay feeders, 3 creep feeders, mineral feeders, feed troughs, 2 water tanks, a very large assortment of farm gates & coral panels (some new), 3 pt. grass seeder, Honda generator, Homelite water pump, 250 gal. fuel tank, 2 metal culverts, 500 gal. water tank on running gears, 28 ft. hay & cm elevator, ross cutter #13A, two tobacco presses.

1961 Ford 600 Truck.

Note: Most all this equipment is in field ready condition.

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