

Septic Tank Systems: Protecting your Investment

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June 6, 2007



Provincial Regulations

- 2005 Province changes regulations
- Previously permitted, inspected, and approved through IH
- Now industry and homeowners responsible to ensure systems are designed, installed, and maintained properly



How does it work?

- Authorized Person (AP) files system plans according to filing requirements
 - Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of British Columbia
 - Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioners (ROWPs)
 - BC Onsite Sewage Association trains installers and provides list at <http://www.bcssa.com/>
 - Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC) certifies installers



How does it work?

- AP installs the system in accordance with the plans
- AP files a letter of certification (stating the system is installed according to plans) along with maintenance plan



Interior Health

- IH acknowledges that plans are filed
- Maintains enforcement privileges (order, or ticketing) if:
 - Health hazard
 - Makes misleading statements
 - Constructs without proper qualifications
 - Fails to file plans or a letter of certification
 - Operates system without letter of certification
- Audits to verify compliance



Protecting your Investment

- Septic tanks and fields can last 25 years
- Replacement can be costly
- Take steps to keep your system working well and for as long as possible



Keep Records

Know where your tank and field is located

- New systems: plans given to homeowner and filed with IH
 - Keep these records
- Older systems:
 - Talk to an installer or pump-out company
 - File search at HU
- Keep maintenance records



What goes in...

Be careful what you put into your septic tank

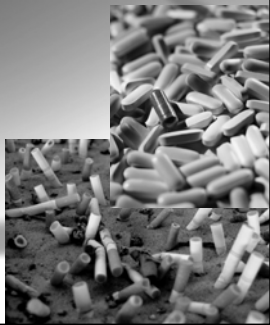
- Only put in domestic wastewater
- Reduce water use
 - Install low-flow fixtures. Fix leaky ones
 - Run dishwasher and washer only when full
- Spread out your water use
- Use biodegradable cleaners, soaps



What stays out...

Keep out waste that can clog your system

- Hair, lint, cigarettes, kitchen waste, dental floss, paper towels
- Harmful chemicals or prescription drugs
- Don't use garbage disposals to grind food waste



Protect your septic field

- Water sparingly
- Don't plant large trees or shrubs
- Don't park cars or drive on your field
- Pump out the tank regularly



For more info...

- www.bcoffa.com
- www.gov.bc.ca
<http://www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/protect/sewage.html>
- www.interiorhealth.ca