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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is an Inspection contract (maintenance agreement) mandatory ? What does it consist of?

Yes, the agreement is required by the state of Texas. The inspection contract is a basic inspection of all the operating parts associated with the aerobic system. The inspection is to ensure the system is functioning properly, thus appropriately cleaning and dispersing the water.

How often do I need to put bleach in my system?

The amount of bleach you will need depends on the amount of water your system uses. A 500 gallon per day system typically uses 1-3 gallons of bleach per month. A 750 gallon per day system typically uses 3-5 gallons of bleach per month. The liquid chlorine dispenser is about 6 inches above the ground. There is a cap with a red sticker displaying liquid chlorine or liquid chlorine dispenser, this is where you want to add the bleach. "Do not overfill the reservoir" check your levels at least once a month.

What is bacteria and why is it important to my system?

Bacteria are microorganisms that ingest the waste. Without the bacteria no waste is being disposed.

How does this aerobic septic system work ?

The aerobic plant employs a process that uses bacteria (typically from the human body) to treat and clean up water by accelerating bacteria growth through the introduction of oxygen. Once the wastewater has been treated, the clean, safe water can be distributed above ground to water plants, grass or other vegetation but not edibles or fruit trees. Today the aerobic system is the most popular. Generally, homeowners use a 500-gallon per day treatment plant designed to treat 500 gallons of typical household waste in a 24-hour period, which equivalent to 20 gallons per hour. If 20 gallons per hour are exceeded, the system's capability is exceeded. For example: a family of 4 can easily exceed the 20 gal/per hour when the family comes home and washes clothes, takes showers, washes dishes, and flush toilets in one evening.

What happens if my wastewater is not properly treated ? Why should I care? What should I do and not do to ensure my system works properly ?

Improperly treated wastewater, when discharged into lakes, rivers, or groundwater can contaminate public and private water sources over a wide area. This contamination lead

to outbreaks of such deadly waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid, paratyphoid, polio, hepatitis, and meningitis. You can also be fined if your system is causing pollution.

Listed below are things you can do and information you need to keep your plant running efficiently and effectively:

- * Keep an adequate supply of chlorine in the chlorinator.
- * Do not flush or wash down the drain anything that will not dissolve or is not biodegradable such as condoms, or anything rubber. Do not flush items with cotton or polyester such as diapers, sanitary napkins, baby wipes, tampons, paper towels or cigarette filters. These items will be in your system forever.

Antibiotics kill the bacteria your system needs to function. When taking antibiotics, treat your wastewater treatment plant with 2 cups of sugar, dry yeast, or dog food. Use anti-bacterial soaps and disinfectants sparingly. Avoid killing the wastewater plant's bacteria.

Use chemical cleansers, like bleach according to the instructions. Use low sudsing, low phosphate, and biodegradable detergents.

Spread wash loads out over the week.

Do not dispose citrus products (lemon, oranges and grapefruits).

How can I know when something is not right with my system ?

If your sprinklers are spraying several times in a 3 to 4 hour period, this is the first indication that your system may be in hydraulic overload (water going thru the system faster than it can be treated). Each spray cycle uses approximately 200 gal/cycle. Sprinklers running frequently means water is running thru the system faster than 20gal/hr. Ultimately water goes thru the system and does not get treated properly resulting in FOUL ODOR, PLUGGED SPRINKLERS & PLUGGED WATER PUMP. Once the system goes into hydraulic over load it can take a week to 10 days for it to recover. This problem usually occurs due to water leaks in toilets and or frequent operation of the washing machine.

If you hear a fairly loud buzzing or see a red light on indicating a high water level in the pump tank. The water pump did not run and pump water out when it should have. Most of the time it was because the electric breaker that powers this pump has tripped and the pump no longer has an electric power supply. Resetting the breaker inside the plant control panel can repair this problem.

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Don't Kill Your Bugs! Your Aerobic Wastewater Treatment Plant is a "living" machine that houses a micro-organism "bug colony" that consumes organic waste. These micro-organisms require oxygen & appropriate "food" (organic waste devoid of toxins) to survive.

"DO'S" AND "DON'TS"

For Owners of Aerobic Wastewater Treatment Systems

The following "do's" and "don'ts" should be practiced by the homeowner. These items, will kill the bacteria life in your Aerobic plant or damage the water pump!

- Medicines: If anyone in your household is ingesting strong medicines, for any length of time; antibiotics, chemotherapy or other, the health of your "bug colony" may be jeopardized. Please inform us, counter measures, such as adding bacteria until the cause has passed.
- Do not dispose of grease, fats, and oils.
- Do not dispose of pesticides, herbicides, or any other toxins.
- The garbage disposal should be used sparingly. Food waste, grease, etc. should be disposed of in the solid waste bin. Food waste represents additional loading the Aerobic Treatment Unit would have to digest, increasing pump out intervals.
- Do not dispose of paints, household chemicals, automobile fluids, or discard mop water into the system.
- Do not dispose of non-biodegradable items such as cigarette butts, disposable diapers, feminine hygiene products, condoms, hair, coffee grounds, paper towels, bandages, etc. Will cause water pump failure.
- Wash loads must be spread out over the week. It usually takes minimum of 4 hours to recover from one load. Never use laundry detergents with "built-in" bleach.
- Do not dispose of citrus products (oranges, lemons, grapefruit, etc.)
- Do not use drain cleaners or additives for septic systems like " " or similar products.
- Do not connect other water sources to the system.
- Water softener discharge kills the micro-organisms in your wastewater treatment system and/or cause excessive water loading.
- Do not dispose of alcoholic beverages or home brewery waste.
- Do not dispose of strong disinfectants or bleaches, such as "Clorox", "Lysol", or "Pine-Sol". Anti-bacterial soaps should be avoided.
- Never use automatic toilet bowl cleaning dispensers such as "Tidy Bowl".
- Recommended detergents are low-sudsing, low in phosphates, and biodegradable, with washing soda ingredients. Fabric softener dryer sheets are recommended.
- Recommended cleaning products are non-chlorine, biodegradable, non-toxic and non-corrosive.
- Improper or excessive loading will result in costly and more frequent pumping out of sludge from your aerobic wastewater treatment system. Homeowner is responsible for chlorine maintenance.
- The use of **pool chlorine** in Aerobic systems is **violation of federal law**.
- Pool chlorine will deteriorate the coating off of all the wires and possibly cause corrosion in the control box. **Use Aerobic System Chlorine Tablets**

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“LO QUE DEBE y NO DEBE ASER”
Para Dueños de Sistemas de Tratamiento de Agua Residual

NO MATE SUS BICHOS! *Su sistema Aerobico de tratamiento de agua residual es una maquina “viviente” donde residen una colonia de micro-organismos que consumen el residuo organico.

***Estos micro-organismos requieren oxigeno y del alimento apropiado para sobrevivir.**

***Las siguientes son recomendaciones de lo que DEBE y NO DEBE hacer como dueno del hogar: *Estos articulos destruyen la bacteria “viva” en su planta aerobica y dañan la bomba de agua.**

***Medicinas- si alguien en su hogar ingiere medicinas fuertes , por cualquier termino de tiempo, como antibioticos, o medicinas para el tratamiento de quimoterapia u otros, estos pueden afectar negativamente el estado de la colonia de organismos que residen en la planta de agua.**

***Favor de informarnos del uso de estos para asi asistirle y añadir bacteria a su sistema hasta que su situacion se normalize.**

***No deseche de grasas o aceites.**

***No deseche de pesticidas u herbicidas u otras toxinas.**

***El desecho de basura debe hacerse con cuidado**

***El desecho de comidas grasas etc. debe ser colocado en los recipientes o cajones de desechos solidos. El desecho de comida representa una carga adicional para la unidad de tratamiento aerobico, el cual debera aumentar la carga de la bomba para digerir el residuo en intervalos.**

***No deseche pinturas, quimicos, fluidos para automoviles o tire el agua de mapear el piso en el sistema.**

***No deseche de articulos como cigarillos, pañales, productos para la higiene femenina, condones, papel toalla, vendajes, etc. Esto causara que el sistema se dañe.**

***El lavado de ropa debe hacerse en tandas en la semana. Usualmente toma un minimo de 4 horas para que el sistema se recupere despues de un solo lavado. Nunca debe usarse detergente que contenga cloro.**

***No deseche productos citricos (naranjas, limones, toronjas, etc)**

***No use limpiadores para tuberias o desagues o aditivos para sistemas septicos como "Rid-X" o productos similares. Estos estan manufacturados para sistemas septicos, no para sistemas aerobicos.**

***No conecte otros sistemas de fuentes de agua. Ej. Desagues para condensadores de aires acondicionados, o refrigeradores o congeladores. El exceso de carga resultara en frecuentes bombeos en su sistema aerobico.**

***Los suavizantes de agua pueden matar los micro-organismos en su sistema de tratamiento de agua residual y causar excesivas cargas de agua.**

***No deseche bebidas alcoholicas o de cervecerias caseras.**

***No deseche desinfectantes poderosos o decolorantes con cloro como lo son Lysol, Pine Sol etc. Deben tambien evitarse los jabones anti-bacteriales.**

***Nunca use limpiadores automaticos para inodoros. Use siempre detergentes recomendables sin cloro y que no sean toxicos o corrosivos.**

***El uso de cloro en el sistema aerobico es una violacion de la ley federal.**

***El cloro para las picinas deteriora la capa protectora de los alambres y cables y pueden causar corrosion u oxido en la caja de control.**

***Use tabletas de cloro recomendables para el uso exclusivo del sistema Aerobico.**

***Use papel higienico adecuado para el sistema septico, como lo son el Scott's y Angel Soft.**