

DE SOTO

KANSAS

Message to: De Soto Private Sewage (Septic) System Users

From: Steve Chick Sr., Building Official

Re: Residential Private Sewage Disposal Systems

Wastewater treatment is often out-of-sight and out-of-mind until problems occur. Knowing the basics about your household treatment system and just taking simple precautions can prevent future problems. It's a wise investment to keep your system working well, since repairs or replacement of a failed system can cost thousands of dollars.

A typical septic system consists of a septic tank, often an aerator or pump tank and a drainfield, also known as a soil absorption field, typically these are chambers, mound or sand filter designs.

Water use in your household in excess of the system's design capacity leads to inadequate wastewater treatment or system failure. Conserving water or more frequent pumping may extend the life of your system. Most four bedroom homes are designed for 600 gal./day usage. A simple method to verify is to look at your monthly water bill total gallons used and divide by the days in the month to determine if you are exceeding 600 gal./day.

To take care of a septic system, you must know where it is. The exact locations of system components are not obvious, because they are below ground. If the location is not in your home records, then a previous homeowner or the City Inspection Department may hold the answer. Regular pumping of the tank is the most important action you can take to maintain your system. The best way to determine when to pump your tank is to have it inspected annually. The pumping frequency depends on several factors, tank capacity, water usage and volume of tank solids. Typically, a tank should be pumped a minimum of once every 3-5 yrs., to prevent sludge from accumulating above acceptable levels.

DE SOTO

KANSAS

The City Code requires that all septic system tanks have min. (1) manhole cover terminated above grade and the cover shall have an approved locking device. When existing systems are serviced or inspected they shall be brought into compliance. This riser allows for inspection/pumping of the tank without having to locate and dig up the tank each time it requires service or should an emergency arise. Average cost is \$150-275 for the installation of a riser and lid, which must be watertight.

The Inspection Department offers Residential Re-Sale Inspections of Private Wastewater Systems in De Soto. This inspection is highly recommended but not required by the City, however many mortgage lenders and buyers may require the inspection prior to purchase of the home. The above mentioned manhole & riser shall be installed for the re-sale inspection.

What are signs of trouble? A foul septic odor in your home or yard may tell you that your system is not working well. Slow or backed-up drains may be caused by a clog in the house pipes, septic tank, drainfield or roof vent for your house plumbing. Wet spongy ground or lush plant growth may appear near a leaky septic tank or failing drainfield. Respond quickly to any problems you observe. You may need to expand or modify your system to avoid further more costly problems.

What waste solids, products and additives are acceptable? Your wastewater treatment system is not a substitute for the trash can or compost pile. Dispose of diapers, baby wipes, sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, cigarette butts and other solid waste with regular garbage and not down the toilet. Excessive use of a garbage grinder in the sink adds to the load on the system, including grease, fats and coffee grounds may also clog your system. Additives are not needed or recommended for septic tanks. A wide range of bacteria is already present in the sewage entering the tank. Those bacteria that are best adapted to the conditions in the septic system thrive in the septic tank and soil absorption field, treating the wastewater.

DE SOTO

KANSAS

Septic tank additives are of no benefit. Some of them do not degrade easily and may damage the system or contaminate the groundwater. Additives that clean solids out of the tank may result in early absorption field failure. Money saved by not using additives will pay for regular pumping of your septic tank – which has proven to extend your wastewater systems life expectancy.

The City of De Soto - Inspection Department Staff is always available to assist you with any questions or system inspections needed for the proper maintenance, operation and repair of your private wastewater system. Numerous informational brochures are also available, call or come by City Hall, or view on our city website www.desotoks.us .

Questions or Information : Contact Building Inspections @

Office: 913-583-1182 e130

Cell: 913-208-4526

Email: schick@desotoks.us