

# Septic Tank Owners Manual & Maintenance Guide

## INSTALLATION

- ✓ All septic tanks are equipped with installation instructions. If you did not receive this information, please contact 868-674-8265.
- ✓ Owners must always be aware of the location of their septic tank. (especially new home owners)
- ✓ A visual inspection of the tank exterior should be conducted where possible- check the cover to see whether it is intact and properly secured onto the tank. This cover should always be easily accessible.

## ROUTINE CLEANING/PUMPING

- ✓ For best results, a septic tank must be pumped out periodically, usually 3-5 years. However, this is dependent on the number of users as well as the size of septic tank.
- ✓ To determine when it is time to pump out your septic tank, a simple inspection can be undertaken. This is done by measuring the depth of the sludge and scum (neither should exceed 0.5 metres) using a firm clear 1" plastic tube (about 8 ft in length) and inserting this slowly into the tank. Once the tube has reached the bottom of the tank, place your thumb over the open end and withdraw the tube. This provides a cross sectional view of the tank and the depth of each layer can then be estimated.
- ✓ Once the contents are pumped out, the septic tank must be immediately refilled with water. **Failure to do so can result in the tank collapsing.**

## GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR MAINTENANCE

- ✓ A soil absorption system (soakaway/drainfield) must be used to properly dispose of this effluent. **(The effluent should not be released directly into a water course).** This must be correctly sized for the soil type to prevent premature failure of the system.
- ✓ Surface water should not be allowed to settle around the general area where the tank is installed since this can lead to system failure.
- ✓ Large trees and lush vegetation should not be allowed to grow near an installed septic tank. Trees should be located at least 7.5m away from a septic tank and 1.5m away from the soil absorption system. The roots tend to restrict the flow of effluent through the drainfield.
- ✓ Heavy loads (including vehicles driving over) should not be superimposed on top or immediately around the tank, this will cause the tank to collapse.
- ✓ Sharp objects should not be used around the tank, this may puncture the tank
- ✓ Storm water and /or wastewater from any commercial water treatment device or commercial process waste should not be allowed to enter the septic tank.

The list of items below are not allowed to enter a septic tank:

- Excessive fats, cooking oils & grease
- Paints, solvents and motor oil
- Fertilizer, pesticide, garden and harsh chemicals
- Diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms
- Plastics
- Enzymes or additives

