

Questions Applicable to All Types of Septic Systems

Do I need to obtain a permit to repair my septic system?

Yes. With few exceptions, Texas law **requires an approved permit** to repair any type of septic system. This law is intended to assure that the person making the repairs is experienced and understands the correct procedures and processes for repairing a system. The law is in place to protect the environment as well as the homeowner and his neighbors.

What is the process for obtaining a repair or installation permit.

In Texas septic system repair and installation permits are issued through your county health department. The permit application considers the type of soil, placement of the system relative to creeks, rivers, lakes and property lines, as well as the type of septic system to be repaired or replaced and the installation or repair plan. Each county maintains a list of licensed septic service companies. Because of the potential difficulties involved in obtaining permits, most service providers require the homeowner to complete and file the application. In most instances we, at Septic Solutions, are able to handle these details for our customers.

Can I flush toilet paper into my system?

All septic systems are designed to properly process toilet paper. The size of the holding tank is based on the number of bedrooms in the home. Commercially manufactured toilet paper is septic system safe. Therefore, so long as the system is not required to handle more wastewater than it was designed to handle, there should be no problem using toilet paper.

How often do I need to have my system pumped?

This answer depends on the size of the system and the number of people using the system. However, for the average household, the answer is every three to five years.

	Household size (number of people)								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9+
Tank Size (gallons)	Duration (in years) Between Pumpings or Inspections								
1,750	19.1	14.2	12.6	1.8	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.4
1,000	12.4	15.9	13.7	2.6	2.0	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.8
1,250	15.6	17.5	14.8	3.4	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.2
1,500	18.9	19.1	15.9	4.2	3.3	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.5
1,750	22.1	10.7	16.9	5.0	3.9	3.1	2.6	2.2	1.9
2,000	25.4	12.4	18.1	5.9	4.5	3.7	3.1	2.6	2.2
2,250	28.6	14.0	19.1	6.7	5.2	4.2	3.5	3.0	2.6
2,500	31.9	15.6	10.2	7.5	5.9	4.8	4.0	3.5	3.0

Above table provided by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Do I need to add additives to my system?

In most instances additives are unnecessary to maintain a properly functioning septic system. However, sometimes a system will become overloaded with organic material and the enzymes and bacteria in additives can actually help. This can occur when a system is temporarily required to process more waste than it was designed to process, such as instances when there are frequent large parties or extra guests for an extended period of time. The need for these supplements is best determined by your service provider.

