



PROTECT FLORIDA'S WATER, STOP POINTLESS PERSONAL POLLUTION

Septic Tanks

A SERIES OF FACT SHEETS FOR FLORIDA STORMWATER EDUCATION

Did You Know That...

- ◆ Failing and inadequate septic systems are a leading source of pollution in this country today and a major health risk.
- ◆ Septic tank failures can result from improper installation, blockage, pipe damage or overloading of the system.
- ◆ You should have your septic tank pumped out and inspected every 3-5 years.
- ◆ Never park or drive over drainfields. This causes the soil to compact and destroys the natural draining structure of the soil.
- ◆ You should never put any foreign objects (such as acidic cleaners and toiletries) down the drain. Doing this will upset the bacterial balance of the septic system.

What is a SEPTIC TANK?

It is a watertight container, frequently made of concrete, that is buried in your yard and accepts all the sewage water from your house.

“Sewage” includes the commode wastes, shower, sink, kitchen, and sometimes washing machine wastewater as well.

Contrary to what most people think, septic systems are one of the most effective methods of treating wastewater.

In fact, septic systems will treat wastewater better than most sewage treatment facilities, at a fraction of the cost to the homeowners and have the potential to last indefinitely.

However, there is one catch, septic systems have to be properly designed, installed and maintained by the homeowners.

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