

## **Caring for your Septic System: A Reference Guide for Homeowners**

**Thank you for purchasing a Global Septic system.**

**This information is relevant for the following size tanks.**

**3000, 4500, 5000 and 6000 Litre**

**Please read the information provided.**

### **Caring for Your Septic System**

The accumulated solids in the bottom of the septic tank should be pumped out every three years to prolong the life of your system. Septic systems must be maintained regularly to stay working.

Neglect or abuse of your system can cause it to fail. Failing systems can

- cause a serious health threat to your family and neighbors,
- degrade the environment, especially lakes, streams and groundwater,
- reduce the value of your property,
- be very expensive to repair,
- and, put thousand of water supply users at risk if you live in a public water supply watershed and fail to maintain your system.

Be alert to these warning signs of a failing system:

- sewage surfacing over the drainfield (especially after storms),
- sewage back-ups in the house,
- lush, green growth over the drainfield,
- slow draining toilets or drains,
- sewage odors.

### **Tips to Avoid Trouble**

**DO** have your tank pumped out and system inspected as per chart below by a licensed septic contractor (listed in the yellow pages).

	3000 Litre	4500 Litre	5000Litre	6000 Litre
Without Filter	5 years	3 years	3 years	5 years
With Filter	10 years	6 years	6 years	10 years

**DO** keep a record of pumping, inspections, and other maintenance. Use the back page of this brochure to record maintenance dates.

**DO** practice water conservation. Repair dripping taps and leaking toilets, run washing machines and dishwashers only when full, avoid long showers, and use water-saving features in taps, shower heads and toilets.

**DO** have a sink strainer to prevent food particles moving into the system and slowing down the process.

**DO** learn the location of your septic system and drainfield. Keep a sketch of it handy for service visits. If your system has a flow diversion valve, learn its location, and turn it once a year. Flow diverters can add many years to the life of your system.

**DO** divert roof drains and surface water from driveways and hillsides away from the septic system. Keep sump pumps and house footing drains away from the septic system as well.

**DO** use ‘Septic Safe’ cleaning aids.

**DO** take leftover hazardous household chemicals to your approved hazardous waste collection center for disposal. Use bleach, disinfectants, and drain and toilet bowl cleaners sparingly and in accordance with product labels.

**DON'T** allow anyone to drive or park over any part of the system. The area over the drainfield should be left undisturbed with only a mowed grass cover. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs may clog and damage your drain lines.

**DON'T** store or stack anything on tank or drain field.

**DON'T** make or allow repairs to your septic system without obtaining the required health department permit. Use professional licensed contractors when needed.

**DON'T** use commercial septic tank additives. These products usually do not help and some may hurt your system in the long run. *The only exception is quality*

enzymes based products. These can improve the soil condition particular in a clay base soil and may break down some fats. **However** it will not improve the function of the Septic tank itself.

**DON'T** pour oils and fats down the sink this can they solidify and may block the system. Instead, put them into a container such as a milk carton and throw out with the rubbish.

**DON'T** use a garbage disposal unit – no food products should be disposed of in the sewage management system.

**DON'T** switch your system off when going away.

**DON'T** use your toilet as a trash can by dumping nondegradable down your toilet or drains. Also, don't poison your septic system and the groundwater by pouring harmful chemicals down the drain. They can kill the beneficial bacteria that treat your wastewater. Keep the following materials out of your system:

**NONDEGRADABLES:**

grease, disposable diapers, plastics, cat litter etc.

**POISONS:**

gasoline, oil, paint, paint thinner, pesticides, antifreeze, etc.

## **A Global Septic System Explained**

Septic systems are individual wastewater systems that use the soil to treat small wastewater flows, usually from individual homes. They are typically used in rural or large lot settings where centralized sewage treatment is impractical.

Please be aware that when you contract a contractor to desludge your tanks, a small volume of effluent is left in the tank to ensure the tank “does not float”. Bacteria levels in the tank will be restored as soon as wastewater enters the system again. It may be helpful to add a handful of lime to the tank to adjust the pH level.

## **A Global Septic System**

Global septic system consists of a septic tank, a distribution box and a drainfield, and is connected by pipes

Your septic system treats your household wastewater by temporarily holding it in the septic tank where heavy solids and lighter scum are allowed to separate from the wastewater. This separation process is known as primary treatment. The solids

stored in the tank are decomposed by bacteria and later removed, along with the lighter scum, by a professional septic tank pumper.

After partially treated wastewater leaves the tank, it flows into a distribution box, which separates this flow evenly into a network of drainfield trenches. Drainage holes at the bottom of each line allow the wastewater to drain into gravel trenches for temporary storage. This effluent then slowly seeps into the subsurface soil where it is further treated and purified (secondary treatment). A properly functioning septic system does not pollute the groundwater.

### **Servicing Requirements**

#### **Global GR-SP3000, GR-SP4500, GR-SP5000 GR-SP6000**

**Servicing is to be undertaken by registered licensed wastewater personnel only.**

Pump Out Interval	3000 Litre	4500 Litre	6000 Litre
Without Filter	5 years	3 years	5 years
With Filter	10 years	6 years	10 years

Please note this may be required more frequently if the tank becomes blocked or overflows.

#### **If effluent is overflowing**

This may indicate that there is a blockage somewhere in the line or that the disposal area is blocked or is being inundated by excess stormwater. First, check for blockages in the drainage line and then call a licensed plumber/drainer as required.

#### **If you believe there is too much sludge and scum in the septic tank**

Have the tank pumped out by a registered licensed liquid waste contractor.

Please see the local council in our area in regard to EPA regulations.

#### **For More Information**

For more information about maintenance or inspection of your septic system, contact the plumber who installed your tank or [your local Council](#).

**PLEASE NOTE THAT AT NO TIME SHOULD ANYONE ENTER THE SEPTIC TANK**

## Maintenance record sheet

<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>SYSTEM</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>INSPECTION</b>		
<b>Date</b>		
<b>TANK DESLUDGE</b>		
<b>DATE :</b>		
<b>REPAIRS</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>		
<b>APPROVAL TO OPERATE</b>		
<b>DATE</b>		

**NOTES:**