

HOW IT WORKS

WASTEWATER IS PART OF THE WATER CYCLE

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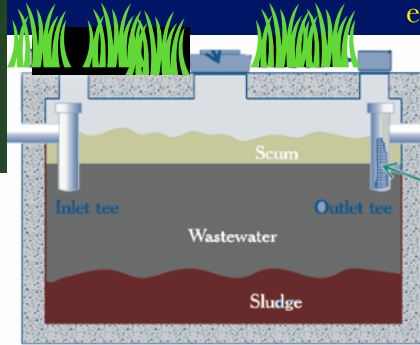
The first step in is when solids separate from liquids.

Everything we put down our toilets, sinks and drains goes either to an individual 'onsite' system in our yard or to a pipe leading to the municipal treatment plant.

"All the water that we have today - is all the water that we'll have tomorrow"



Dan Hall & Mill Creek Elementary 5th. Grade 2009. Wastewater recycles - endlessly - to return for us to drink and reuse again.



Then liquid flows out to the treatment field and eventually back to groundwater



SO, YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT 'WASTE'WATER?

Talking about bodily functions is one of those perennial taboos - even if we all do 'it' every day.

But the fact that Mother Nature has designed our digestive system to fit neatly into the bacterial processes at work in air, soils and water is nothing short of, well, miraculous.

The septic system hasn't been around for as long as you might think - only since the late 19th century. Municipal sewers developed to serve large cities in the same time period, merely carried human filth out to the nearest body of water with little treatment at all.

It became obvious that dilution was NOT the solution when people started to get sick from drinking from the same source that was receiving the waste stream. It was time to collect, treat AND recycle.

All systems basically mimic the bacterial processes at work in the human gut.

Two environments are at work during wastewater treatment.

- Anaerobic* - meaning without oxygen
- Aerobic* - needing oxygen to live.

Conditions in the collection tank are *anaerobic* - this stage of treatment is similar to how bacteria works in the human digestion system. Public health agencies get very concerned when these bacteria escape to the outside world! These are the bugs that cause gastrointestinal illnesses if they get back into the system via your mouth.

After a period of settling out, fats and 'floaters' rise to the top and fluids go on to *aerobic* treatment - usually in a soil bed. It's here that oxygen loving bacteria go to work devouring the nutrients and pathogens, and recycling filtered, treated water.

It's a sobering truth that all the water that we have today has traveled through a digestive system or soils of some kind!

MORE INFO ON WEBSITE

Septic Facts

Size Matters

You can't fit a gallon in to a pint glass. The septic tank's purpose is to send fluids out to a treatment area and retain solids for clean out by a hauler. More solids = less volume left for fluids and the danger of overflowing clogging solids out to the drainfield. It's important to have your tank regularly serviced to protect your drain field and save you money !

Let It Breathe

For aerobic bacteria to do their job, you need to keep the drain field area from being drowned or compacted. Bugs need to breathe too so they can digest the unwanted and dangerous stuff you produce.

Clean Water Starts At Home

Household treatment systems are designed for human biology! Don't use your toilet as a trash can!