

AQUAROBIC SEPTIC CARE – DO’S & DON’TS

Your Aquarobic Septic System

Your Aquarobic, or similar type aerobic septic system, is a small, on-site sewage treatment and disposal system that depends upon beneficial bacteria to function efficiently. It has been designed to decompose organic material using oxygen and the bacteria normally present in domestic sewage. An Aquarobic system has some unique features to break down the waste and safely allow it to leach into the soil. It generally consists of an aerobic tank, a blower, a pump, three floats, filters and a panel with an electrical timer for cycles of aeration and pumping. Regular care and maintenance of this system annually will ensure continued optimum conditions and will prevent premature failure of its various components and your septic bed.

Regular Care and Maintenance – Do’s and Don’ts

DO’S

- DO** encourage grass to grow over the bed as it helps disperse water. Cut the grass regularly.
- DO** leave the bed without disturbing it. Altering it by adding fill or covering it up with landscaping, patios, decks, pools, etcetera will result in bed saturation and eventually failure.
- DO** keep all types of vehicles and heavy equipment off the system and the bed as they can break the piping, housing or cover.
- DO** keep the manway cover on and do not block it to prevent excess water from entering system.
- DO** remember that your system has the extra capacity to accept *temporary* additional loadings such as small to medium parties, but excessive overuse should be discussed with your dealer for options.
- DO** install water-saving toilets, showerheads and faucets to reduce up to 40% water usage.
- DO** use biodegradable soaps and cleaners as much as possible. The system can handle a small amount of regular soaps, detergents, liquid fabric softeners and cleaners but regular use interferes with the natural bacterial breakdown of the sewage, or effluent, and can cause foaming and odour problems. The worst culprits for causing this type of problem are *liquid* fabric softeners.
- DO** put grease, fats and oils in a container for the garbage. Although your system can handle limited quantities, they take a huge amount of oxygen and take years to decompose. They will eventually plug the pores in the soil and seal up the septic bed.
- DO** use **potassium chloride** salts if you have a water softener. Regular water softener salts act like liquid fabric softener to your system. Windsor Salts and Sifto Canada are two of the major producers of potassium chloride salt. Saltless water softeners or metered water softeners are other options.
- DO** use regular toilet paper and not extra soft or thick as it cannot be broken down quickly enough.

DON'TS

DON'T put non-biodegradable materials down the drains or toilets. They will plug up the system necessitating frequent pump outs. They could also clog the pump which could lead to more expense. Non-biodegradable materials include any plastics, rubber, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, toys, cellophane, cigarette butts, etcetera and even hair.

DON'T allow dripping taps or leaking toilets to discharge into your system. It adds up to excess gallons which may overload the system and the bed, resulting in poor treatment and damage to system's components or breakdown of the bed itself. ***Most septic problems are due to this.***

DON'T allow harsh chemicals to get into your system. They can kill the bacteria necessary for efficient treatment. Harsh chemicals include acid or caustic cleaners, oil, turpentine, etc. The use of anti-bacterial products and chlorine bleach should be kept to a bare minimum.

DON'T let roof water, sump pump water or surface run-off enter your system.

DON'T shut off system when going away on weekends or on vacation. The system is designed to function on its own maintaining odour-free operation. For an extended time away, contact us.

DON'T connect any other electrical load to the fuse or breaker feeding the system as it will cause damage to the pumps and controls.

DON'T attempt to repair the system yourself. Your dealer is trained to repair your system safely with the proper procedures and materials. Incorrect parts or installation can damage the system.

Note: Garbage disposals are *not* recommended as they can biologically overload the system and can increase sludge by up to 40%. If you must use one, it is recommended that you do not insert any fats, pasta/starch or bones.

Service Calls

The Ontario Building Code and Ministry of the Environment state that septic systems must be operated in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Generally most systems require a minimum annual or semi-annual inspection/maintenance. Lamoureux Mechanical Service Ltd. / Plumb Perfect Ltd. have been authorized Aquarobic service dealers since 1992 and are therefore trained in all aspects of inspections, diagnostic and corrective procedures, repairs and parts replacement. A typical service call includes the following:

- *Checking the light functions and replacing bulbs if necessary*
- *Inspecting the condition of the electrical panel*
- *Checking the timer and resetting if necessary*
- *Inspecting the wires and circuit breaker*
- *Checking the discharge level and establishing that the water volume relates to established usage. Listening for running water which could indicate inside plumbing problems*
- *Cleaning, checking and testing the floats to ensure they are in good working condition*

- *Checking the discharge pump to see if it is free and clear of debris and is functioning at optimum level. Removing any debris and safely disposing of it*
- *Removing old filter(s) and installing new one(s)*
- *Checking the blower for any unusual noise, heat or damage*
- *Checking blower amperage*
- *Checking blower and diffusion action*
- *Checking any loose nuts or clamps and adjusting as necessary*
- *Checking that all visible pipes are in good condition*
- *Checking the surrounding area for any current or potential problems and more...*

After the inspection/service, your service technician will advise you on any essential repairs, system care or if your tank needs to be pumped out. Depending upon size of system, number of people in household and your co-operation with respect to the above do's and don'ts, routine service should be performed one to three times a year. Twice a year, preferable in spring and fall, is recommended by Aquarobic International and our Aquarobic specialist. With proper care, your system will remain trouble free and your bed will last many years longer.

Please note: Your Aquarobic System is designed to function normally after a brief period of power loss, such as a "brown-out". *Black-outs however, interrupt the timer's cycles and should be serviced as soon as possible afterwards to restore normal function and to prevent problems.*

Signs of Trouble

The #1 problem encountered by homeowners is a full septic tank. This is most often due to leaking plumbing fixtures such as a toilet that runs on or a dripping faucet, blocked system components, overuse of chemicals (which destroys the bacteria necessary for proper functioning) or non-biodegradable materials getting into the septic system.

Following are some of the signs of trouble which indicate professional service is needed:

- **Septic alarm is ringing and red light is on**
- **Waste water is backing up inside the home**
- **Effluent outside the home**
- **Foul odours either inside or outside**
- **Toilets and sinks drain slowly**
- **Gurgling sound or water coming up in sinks, bathtubs or showers, particularly after flushing a toilet or doing laundry**
- **Extra growth of grass and plants over septic bed**
- **Lawn on or around septic bed is spongy or filled with water**
- **Blower is noisy or noise coming from system**
- **Power has been out for an extended period of time**
- **Manway cover is missing or broken allowing water/debris into system**

Please call us as soon as possible if you are experiencing any of the above symptoms and refrain from using larger amounts of water such as doing laundry, using the dishwasher or long showering so as to prevent damage to your system.

Recommended Products

Bio-Clean/Maximizer DT Pro: Nothing is more effective for biodegrading waste in septic systems than Bio-Clean or Maximizer DT Pro. They feed on waste matter and change it into water, carbon dioxide and other elements that run harmlessly out of your system. They clean the system which reduces the need for repairs and septic pump outs. Bio-Clean or Maximizer DT Pro can extend the life of your septic bed, saving you thousands of dollars. They are also highly effective on preventing clogged drains such as in kitchen sinks, showers, bathtubs, floor drains, garbage disposals and laundry tubs. For over 20 years they have proven to be the safest, and most economical and environmentally friendly products on the market. *We highly recommend Bio-Clean and Maximizer DT Pro.* (Please note that these products are not sold in any store. They are professional products only available through the plumbing/septic industry. Please call us for more information or to purchase.)

Biodegradable Cleaning Products: Vinegar and baking soda can clean about 70% of your home safely and economically, but there are also many biodegradable products in the market today, such as *Nature Clean, Ecos and Citra-Solv*. Most retail stores, grocery stores, drug stores and health food shops offer natural cleaning products – just confirm they are septic safe, biodegradable and **not** anti-bacterial. ***Liquid fabric softeners cause the most harm to your system and should be avoided.*** Dryer softener sheets, such as Bounce or a non-chemical dryer sheet, are recommended for septics.

Nature's Own by Sifto Canada: Potassium Chloride salts are recommended if you have a water softener. They are available through Canadian Tire. Other brands of Potassium Chloride salts are available at hardware stores and selected water softener suppliers.

With regular care and professional maintenance your Aquarobic septic system will give you years of care free service.

Lamoureux Mechanical Service Ltd./Plumb Perfect Ltd. are fully licensed and insured plumbing contractors specializing in **all** residential plumbing repairs, maintenance and new installations. From leaking faucets and plugged toilets to water filtration systems and hot water heaters, we have the right plumber with the right equipment. For your security our plumbers have passed criminal background checks and drug tests and receive ongoing training to serve you better.

We are confident that you will be happy with our professionalism, integrity and warranties. For your convenience we accept Visa, Mastercard, Debit and Cash. Call to book an exact appointment time that works around your schedule.

For more information please visit us at www.plumbperfect.ca or call 1.888.458.1979. We are here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with a LIVE client care representative ready to help.