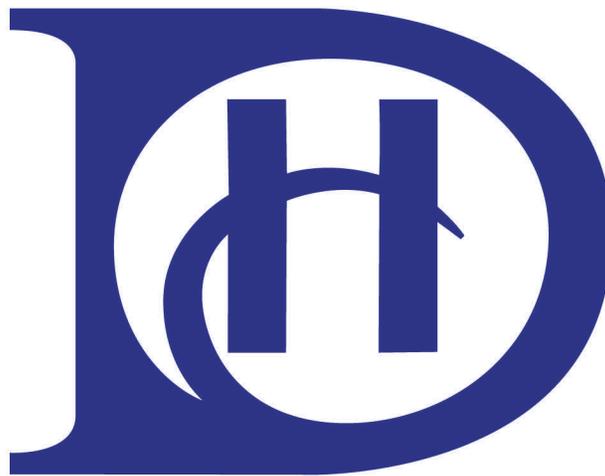


## STS Don'ts

- Don't go down into a septic tank. Toxic gases are produced naturally by the treatment process that goes on inside of the tank and can kill in minutes. Extreme care should be taken when inspecting a septic tank, even when just looking in.
- Don't do all of your laundry in one day. The amount of liquid entering the system all at once may be too excessive for your system to handle.
- Don't use septic tank additives. These products usually do not help and some may be harmful to your system.
- Don't dump pesticides, herbicides, paints, automobile fluids, household chemicals, antibiotics, or any other toxins into the system, they may kill or disrupt active bacteria.
- Don't use a garbage disposal. They increase the loading of suspended solids, nutrients, and BOD to septic systems, as well as increasing the amount of solids in the tank, thus increasing pumping frequency.
- Don't pave or construct anything over the treatment area, it requires air to function properly. The treatment area should only have grass cover. The grass helps prevent erosion as well as aiding in the transpiration process.
- Don't use fabric softener; this can disrupt the natural bacteria process occurring in the tank. Instead substitute the liquid with fabric softener dryer sheets.



Finalized Mound System



# Delaware General Health District

**Dedicated to your health**

**For more information contact the Delaware General Health District**

**P.O. Box 570**

**1-3 W. Winter Street**

**Delaware, OH 43015**

**740-368-1700**

**Or visit our website**

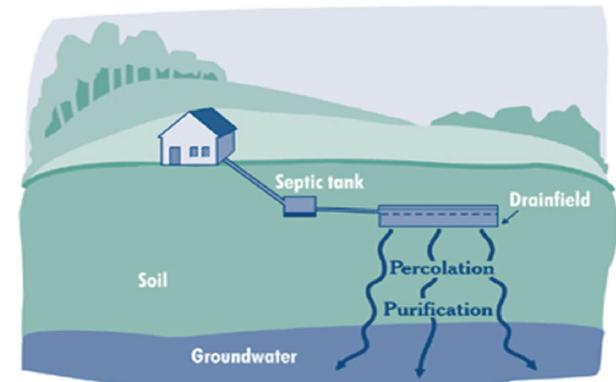
**[www.delawarehealth.org](http://www.delawarehealth.org)**

The Delaware General Health District operates in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Revised May, 2012



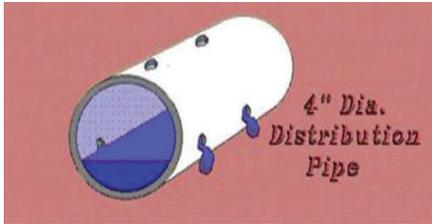
## Sewage Treatment Systems



*Care and Protection*

# CARE OF YOUR SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM

Sewage Treatment Systems, much like an automobile, require periodic inspection and maintenance. Preventative maintenance helps prolong the life of the system and can save the owner money by catching problems before they further develop.



Leachfield Tile

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Why do some types of systems require a maintenance contract?

**A:** Certain types of systems may contain one or more mechanical components, including aerators, pumps, and filters, that need routine maintenance to ensure they are functioning properly. The more mechanical components a system has, the more “parts” there are that could break and cause the system to fail. Regular maintenance on these types of systems can catch a problem before it becomes serious.

**Q:** I am not the original owner. How do I know what type of system I have and where it’s located?

**A:** DGHD has records of systems that date back into the 1950s. You can call our office and a sanitarian will try to locate any records that may exist.

**Q:** I am adding on to my house, or making another addition or change to my property and was told I need Health District approval. Why?

**A:** Health District approval is required in these situations to ensure both the current STS is functioning properly and the addition will not adversely affect the existing STS or any area that was set aside as a replacement area. A sanitarian will come out to the property to do an inspection and prepare a letter and packet of information that will be given to the owner.

Drip Distribution Tubing



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What types of STS are allowed in Delaware County?

**A:** Under current rules, several types of systems are allowed. These include the “traditional” leachfield type systems, mound systems, and drip irrigation systems. There is no county wide ban on any type of system. The soil conditions on each lot determine what type of system will best serve that particular property.

**Q:** Are there items that should not be flushed when I have a STS?

**A:** Yes. Do not flush items such as coffee grinds, dental floss, disposable diapers, kitty litter, cigarette butts, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, condoms, or any fats, greases, or oils. Additionally, do not put toxic chemicals such as paints, thinners, varnishes, or pesticides into your STS. All of these items can disrupt the biological function of your system.

**Q:** How often should I have my septic tank pumped?

**A:** Pumping frequency will vary depending on the number of people in the home and the amount of water being used. Routine inspections can help determine if it is time to have your system pumped. Typically, for a family of four, tanks should be pumped every 3 to 5 years.

## STS Dos

- Do learn the location of your septic system. Keep a to-scale drawing of your septic layout handy for future use.
- Do have your system inspected annually.
- Do have your septic tank pumped out regularly by a registered sewage tank cleaner every 3 to 5 years.
- Do Keep you septic tank cover accessible for inspections and pumping. Install risers if necessary.
- Do call the Health District or a registered sewage installer if you are experiencing problems.
- Do keep a detailed record of all repairs, pumping, inspections, permits issued, or other maintenance activities.
- Do conserve water to avoid over saturation. Be sure to repair any leaky faucets or toilets.
- Do divert all other sources of water away from your treatment areas, like sump pump drains, roof drains, and neighboring run-offs. Grade your landscape accordingly.



Layout of a Drip Distribution System