

For More Information

For more information about maintenance or inspection of your septic system, contact your local health department

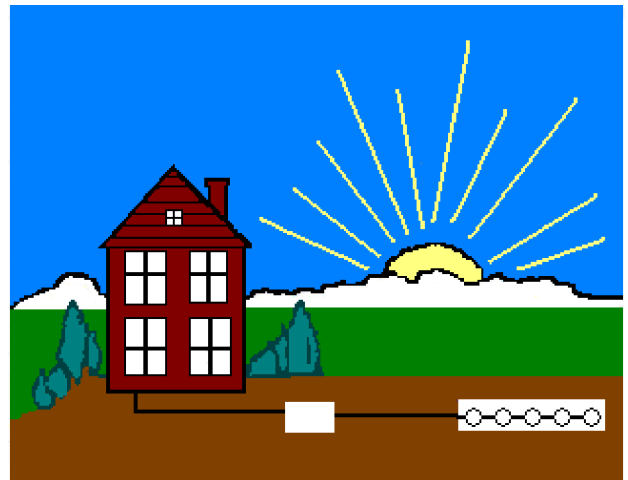
Kane County Health Department
Environmental Division

1240 N. Highland Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506
630-444-3040 phone
630-897-8312 fax
or
76 S. Grove Ave.
Elgin, IL 60120
847-608-2850 phone
847-888-6458 fax

A Reference Guide

YOUR AEROBIC TREATMENT PLANT

For Homeowners



Caring for Your Aerobic Treatment Plant

Aerobic Treatment Plants (ATP's) are usually installed in areas where conventional septic systems will not function properly. Treatment occurs by aeration of the sewage, which is then discharged to disposal system.

These units must be inspected twice annually by the distributor who is registered with the Kane County Health Department as well as being licensed by the State of Illinois. A maintenance contract is required by law. Your system manufacturer or distributor can provide you with an operating manual, which should be kept handy for reference or for troubleshooting.

Many ATP's are preceded by a septic tank, which should be pumped according to your manufacturer's recommendations. Frequent pumping of the tank will give your ATP the best chance of working properly.

Be Alert to These Warning Signs of a Failing System

- Sewage surfacing over the drainfield (especially after storms)
- Sewage back-ups in the house
- Sewage seeping around the cover of the aerobic treatment plant
- Lush green growth over the drainfield
- Slow draining toilets or household drains
- Sewage odors

Tips to Avoid Trouble

- DO have a maintenance agreement it's the law, and it could prevent costly repairs later.
- DO have the tank pumped out every 3 to 5 years (more often in some cases) by a licensed private sewage disposal system pumper.
- DO keep maintenance records.
- DO conserve water.
- DO learn the location of the components of your septic system
- DO divert rood drains, surface water, water softener backwash, air conditioner discharges, and sump drains away from your drainfield.
- DO follow your manufacturers instructions regarding specific activities.
- DON'T introduce hazardous chemicals into your system. This can destroy your unit!
- DON'T flush sanitary napkins, condoms, etc. down your toilet. These can clog your components of your unit.
- DON'T allow anyone to drive or park over any part of the system, or expansion area. The area over your drainfield should be left undisturbed.
- DON'T make repairs without obtaining a permit form the Kane County Health Department, Environmental Division.
- DON'T build patio decks, swimming pools, or sprinkler systems over your drainfield or expansion area.
- DON'T use septic system additives as these may cause the unit to fail.

A Word About Sewage Discharge

In some cases, effluent from your aerobic treatment plant may be discharged into an evaporation bed, or storm drainage system. If this is the case, the discharge must be disinfected prior to release. Therefore, disinfectant tablets must be continually supplied. Contact your contractor or distributor for details.

