

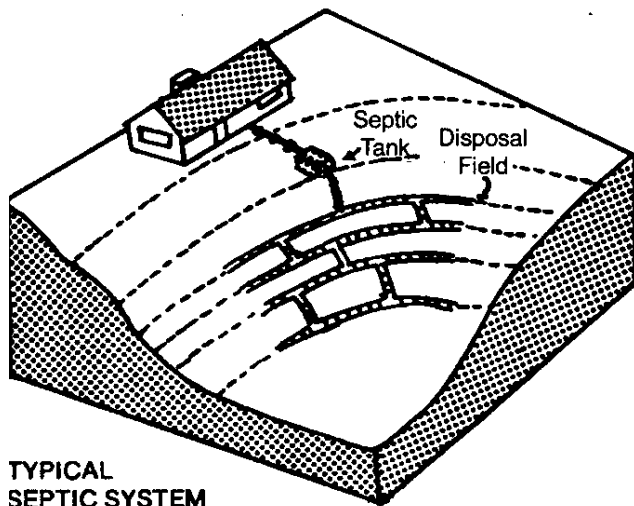


## How Your System Works

Septic Systems are used in many areas of Alabama where public sewers are not available. When properly maintained, a septic system can be expected to have a long and trouble-free service life. Abuse or neglect may cause a system to malfunction, making costly repairs necessary and creating health hazards.

A septic system consists of a septic tank and an absorption field or disposal area. The septic tank receives household wastes from sinks, showers, commodes, washing machines and dishwashers. In the septic tank, solids settle to the bottom, where bacteria in the wastes continue to break them down and digest them. Grease and scum float to the top. The remaining liquid, still highly polluted, enters the absorption field, where the natural processes of the soil filter and purify it.

Accumulated solids in the bottom of the septic tank should be pumped out every 3 to 5 years. Records should be kept by the homeowner to show dates of service. Use only companies who are permitted by your local health department to perform cleaning or repair services.



TYPICAL  
SEPTIC SYSTEM

**Regular  
Maintenance  
Costs Less  
Than  
Repairs**

## To Avoid Trouble -

- DON'T** use a garbage grinder.
- DON'T** pour grease down your drains.
- DON'T** flush non-biodegradable material into the system.
- DON'T** put lye or other caustic chemicals into the system.
- DON'T** permit anyone to drive heavy vehicles over your field lines.
- DON'T** ignore dripping plumbing fixtures.

**AND . . .**

- DO** learn the location of your septic tank and field lines.
- DO** encourage water conservation in the home.
- DO** have your septic tank pumped every 3 to 5 years.
- DO** tear off this panel and keep a record of septic tank service on the reverse side.
- DO** call the local county health department for a permit before you have repairs made on your system - - or call anytime you have septic tank problems.