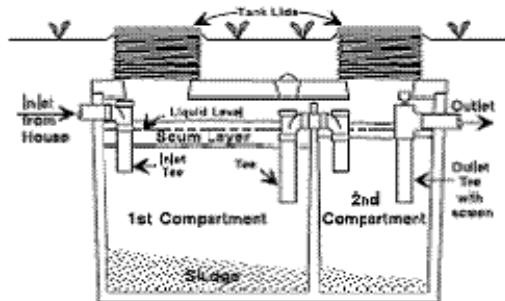


## Septic Tank Pumping is Vitrally Important

The typical septic tank is a large buried container made of concrete, fiberglass or polyethylene. Wastewater from your home flows into the tank. Heavy solids settle to the bottom where bacterial action partially decomposes them. Most of the lighter solids, such as grease and oils, rise to the top and form a scum layer. The wastewater leaving the septic tank is a liquid called effluent. It has been partially treated but still contains disease causing bacteria and other pollutants. From the tank, the effluent typically flows by gravity to the leach field. Failing to routinely pump the septic tank causes more solids to exit in the effluent resulting in costly damage to the leach field.



### *Proper Care Includes:*

- 1. Inspecting your septic tank once every year and pumping it when needed.** If the tank is not pumped periodically, solids escaping from the septic tank will clog the leach field. Using a garbage disposal will increase the amount of solids entering the tank and require more frequent pumping.
- 2. Avoiding the flushing of harmful materials into the septic tank.** Never put materials such as grease, newspapers, paper towels, cigarettes butts, coffee grounds, diapers, sanitary napkins, solvents, oils, paint, or pesticides into the tank.
- 3. Avoiding the use of any type of chemical or biological septic tank additive.** Such products are not necessary for the proper functioning of a septic tank, nor do they reduce the need for routine tank pumping. Some additives can actually cause harm to the system.
- 4. On average, a tank must be pumped every 3-5 years.**

**If you have any questions regarding your septic tank, please contact the Stark County Health Department at (330) 493-9904.**