



559-627-2000 Visalia 559-783-0333 Porterville

Frequently asked questions:

When will my septic tank be full again?

Your septic tank will actually be full of wastewater within a few days of our pumping. A septic tank is full of wastewater if it is properly working. The outlet pipe leading to the leachfield is near the top of the tank. Remember the wastewater exits the septic tank to be absorbed by the leachfield and it can only do this if it is full.

Why was my system able to go without pumping for many years before and now I'm having problems after a few years? Changes in usage are not known by our company. It is the individuals occupying the residence that know how often they do laundry, flush the toilets, shower and possibly use a garbage disposal. If any toilets or sinks leak this could cause the system to appear to be full because the wastewater backs up when the leachfield can't handle the overload. Average water use per day is 70 gallons per person. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons a day. If the leachfield is overloaded with too much liquid, it will flood, causing sewage to flow to the ground surface or create backups in plumbing fixtures.

Can I use my garbage disposal?

Use your disposal with moderation. Heavy garbage disposal use sends large quantities of solids into the tank, which can cause problems for the septic system. Remember just because it goes down the drain doesn't mean it disappears.

Doing the following will help to extend the frequency of pumping:

Flush responsibly

Dental floss, feminine hygiene products, condoms, diapers, cotton swabs, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, cat litter, paper towels, and other kitchen and bathroom items can clog and potentially damage septic system components. Flushing household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, and paint can stress or destroy the biological treatment taking place in the system or might contaminate surface waters and groundwater.

Use water efficiently

Average indoor water use in a typical single-family home is almost 70 gallons per person per day. Dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day.

Laundry

Make sure you always wash a full load. Try to spread out laundry throughout the week. Doing laundry all in one day might seem like a good use of time, but it could cause problems for your septic tank. Remember, all water from your house ends up in your septic tank.

Pump frequently

On average, you should have your septic tank pumped generally every 3 to 5 years.

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