

WHAT IS A HOLDING TANK?

A holding tank system is a watertight tank into which sewage from a facility flows to be properly removed and disposed of.

Once a tank is pumped, the waste is either transported to a wastewater treatment facility or can be land-applied to certain fields that meet criteria. If land-applied, lime must be added to effluent prior to dispersal.

Most of the waste found inside of a holding tank consists of liquid effluent. This creates an increased risk of freezing compared to standard septic tanks.

While holding tanks are not the preferred type of system, it may be the only alternative in some cases.

Direct questions or concerns
to your Polk County
Planning & Zoning office



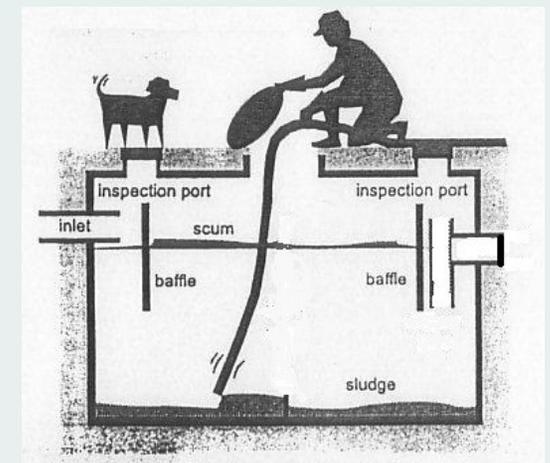
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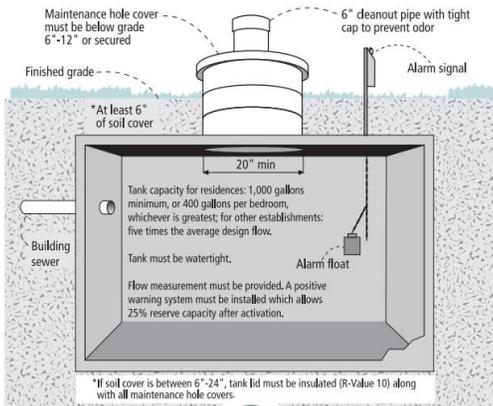
An Introduction to

HOLDING TANK SEPTIC SYSTEMS



**A homeowner's guide to caring
for a holding tank**

FIGURE 7.35 Holding Tank Specifications



Caring for Your Holding Tank

Most homeowners probably never give a thought to what happens after wastewater goes down the drain. But what you don't know may hurt you. If you rely on a septic system to treat and dispose of wastewater, proper care and maintenance of the system can have an impact on how long it lasts. It makes sense financially and environmentally to take care of your septic system.

An owner's responsibility mostly revolves around maintenance of the septic tank. The contents of the tank should be pumped out as needed.

More information about septic systems may be found at www.co.polk.mn.us

SYSTEM DO'S

- ◆ DO learn the capacity and location of your tank
- ◆ DO have your tank pumped as needed by a licensed contractor



- ◆ DO periodically check that the alarm is functioning properly. The alarm should signal when the tank is at 75% capacity.
- ◆ DO keep a record of the installation, pumping, inspection, and other maintenance
- ◆ DO practice water conservation. Avoid long showers, use water-saving devices, and repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets.



- ◆ DO provide insulation over the tank if it is to be used during winter months. Insulation may be achieved by the use of insulation blankets, straw, leaves, etc.
- ◆ DO notify Polk County Planning & Zoning of any change in service provider.

SYSTEM DON'TS

- ◆ DON'T drive or park over the tank. The weight of vehicles may collapse the system and lead to failure.
- ◆ DON'T ignore alarm!
- ◆ DON'T dump household chemicals into the system. Use bleach, disinfectants and drain and toilet bowl cleaners sparingly.
- ◆ DON'T repair your system without obtaining the proper permits. Hire a licensed contractor when needed.
- ◆ DON'T use septic tank starters, feeders, cleaners or any other additive. Most of these do little to help your system and many can actually harm it.
- ◆ DON'T ever enter the tank. The contents of the tank can cause sickness or death.
- ◆ DON'T pump your own tank without proper disposal. Waste must be removed by a licensed professional ONLY.
- ◆ DON'T discharge hazardous liquids or connect floor drains to your septic system. That waste is not able to be disposed of in the same manner as septic effluent.
- ◆ DON'T discharge furnace condensation into the tank. This would provide a source for freezing pipes.

