

Mound Pressure System Inspection & Maintenance Checklist

Septic tank:

- Inspect the tank lids/access risers for a tight seal and for root and/or surface/ground water intrusion.
- Monitor the inlet invert pipe for surface/ground water intrusion and/or root intrusion into the tank and check for pooling (leaking) of sewage outside the tank.
- Monitor for leaky interior household plumbing fixtures (continuous water flowing into the tank from the house). If present it could potentially hydraulically overload the system.
- Inspect inlet baffle and center baffle if visible. The top of the baffle should be above the scum layer and open to allow the tank to vent through the house roof vents.
- Remove & inspect the pump and clean the pump intake screen if needed. **Turn off the electrical power to the pump and shut the ball valve located between the pump and drainfield/mound before removing the pump and after re-installing the pump, be sure to turn on the electrical power and re-open the ball valve.**
- Remove, inspect and clean pump vault filter/screen.
 - Inspect and monitor the on/off float, the high/low effluent level floats and the high/low effluent level audible/visual alarms to determine if they are operational. The audible alarm should sound and the visual alarm should light up at the control panel.
- Inspect the splice box and wiring - check the gasket and wiring seals. Dry and repair if there is a build-up of moisture or if water-logged.
- Measure the scum & sludge layers in all compartments of the septic tank (and pump tank if equipped). If the combined total is more than 30% of total working depth of the tank, the tank should be pumped.

Mound:

- Inspect the mound area – look for surfacing sewage (grey/opaque soil color), soggy areas, and strong odors – concentrate around the toe of mound and upper third where the laterals are located. Monitor vegetation around the mound. Vegetation should be limited to grass and trees and shrubs that existed at the time of installation.
- Check observation/monitoring ports if equipped for ponding of effluent. Use wood dowel or measuring tape to measure depth. If more than an inch monitor over next few hours/days.
- Flush the drainfield laterals separately if equipped with clean-outs by manually turning the pump on at the control box or by utilizing the on/off float. Wait until the effluent clears up a second time before turning the pump off. **Be sure to re-install the clean-out caps.**
- Measure the pressure head if system is equipped with clean-outs (recommended). Use extra threaded caps with 1/8" drilled holes on each clean-out to measure individual effluent spray lengths/heights. Test all the laterals at the same time. Lengths/heights should be uniform (within 10%) and measurements compared to previous inspection amounts. Significant differences might be an indication of clogged orifices.