

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 pipe for surface/ground water intrusion and/or root intrusion into the tank and check for pooling of sewage outside the tank.
- Monitor for leaky interior 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.
- 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 before removing the pump and be sure to turn on the electrical power and open ball valve after re-installing the pump.**
- 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.
- Inspect the splice box and wiring - check 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 combined total is more than 30% of total working depth of the tank, the tank should be pumped.

Drainfield:

- Inspect the drainfield area – look for surfacing sewage, soggy areas, isolated green patches, plants that grown in marshy environments and strong odors. If any of these conditions are present, it might indicate a failure. Also check if drainfield and reserve drainfield area (repair area) are being properly maintained and covered with appropriate vegetation.
- Flush the drainfield laterals separately if equipped with clean-outs by manually turning the pump on at the control panel 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.**
- Monitor the observation/monitoring ports if equipped. Check for ponding – measure using a wood dowel or tape measure. If more than an inch monitor over next few hours and/or days. Compare to previous inspections.
- Measure the pressure head (recommended), if system equipped with clean-outs. Use extra threaded caps with 1/8" drilled holes on each clean-out to measure individual effluent spray lengths/heights. Test each lateral at the same time. Lengths/height should be uniform (within 10%) and measurements compared to previous inspection amounts. Significant differences might be an indication of clogged orifices. **Be sure to re-install the original caps.**