

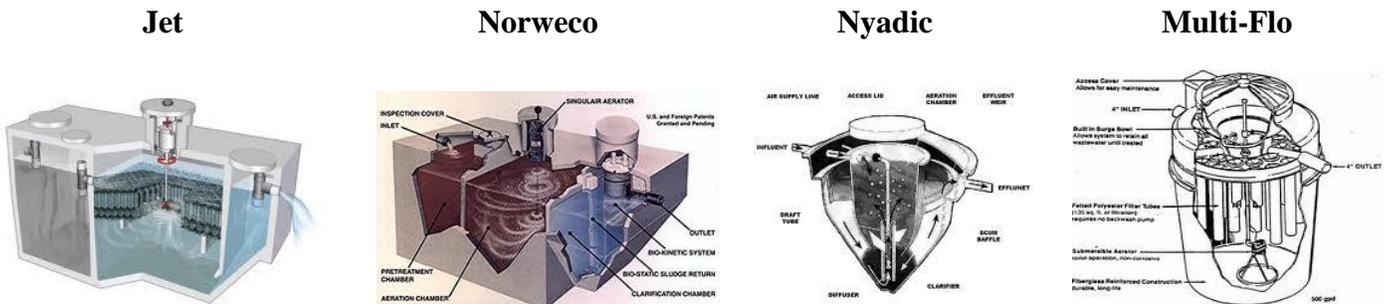


Licking County Health Department ---Environmental Division
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Aeration Tank & Dry Well --- Factsheet

- **Aeration Tank:** An aeration tank is a major component of a HSTS system. Unlike a septic tank the aeration tank depends on an electric motor. The main principal behind the operation of this type of tank is air injected into the sewage; the air is utilized by aerobic bacteria. Aerobic bacteria work to break down the wastewater and convert it to odorless liquids and gases. Aerobic bacteria are more efficient in breaking down the wastewater than anaerobic bacteria found in a septic tank.

Common Types of Aerators found in the County:



- **Dry Well:** The wastewater exits the septic tank and enters a distribution box (d-box) or bull-run valve. Some older dry well systems may not have a distribution device. The wastewater is then distributed into a dry well. A dry well is a prefabricated concrete tank with uniform holes throughout, or could be manmade out of laying up bricks or blocks. Dry wells were either installed as halves, usually two or one full dry well. The outside of the dry well was surrounded by gravel. The gravel and soil act as biological filters. As the wastewater moves through the soil to the ground water the filtration process and organisms in the soil work to remove toxins, bacteria, viruses and other pollutants. Some homes have 1 or more dry wells and some homes have drywells used in conjunction with leaching. The dry well may also have a riser or inspection port to grade with the surface. Similar to a septic tank a dry well may be pumped out if needed.

➤ ****Dry wells are no longer allowed to be installed as part of a HSTS system. ****

- **The Licking County Health Department recommends the following activities to keep your septic system working correctly:**
 - Have your aeration tank pumped every 3 years
 - Do not place any buildings or other structures on top of your system
 - Keep downspout and sump pump drains away from your system
 - Repair any faucet or toilet leaks to avoid adding extra water to your system