

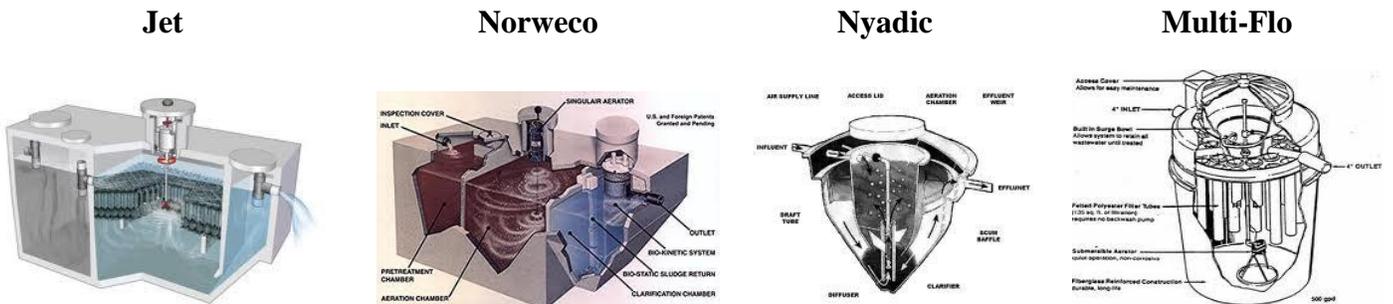


**Licking County Health Department ---Environmental Division**  
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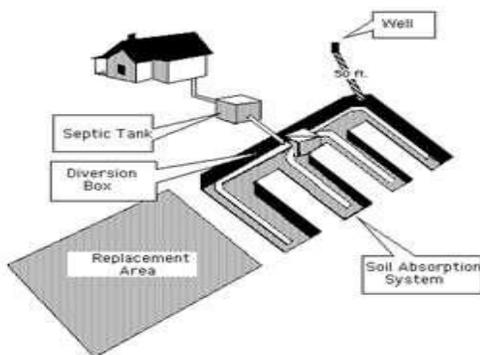
**Aeration Tank & Leach Field --- Factsheet**

- **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:**



- **Leach Field:** The wastewater exits the aeration tank and enters a distribution box (d-box) or bull-run valve. Some older leach systems may not have a distribution device. The wastewater is then distributed into a leach field. The leach field can either be a series of trenches or a square footage bed. The distribution device controls and diverts wastewater from one half of the leach trenches or bed to the other. Depending on water usage it is recommended that the d-box or valve be switched every 6 months. The leach field treats the wastewater by allowing it to slowly trickle from pipes into the gravel and down through the soil. 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.



- **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

