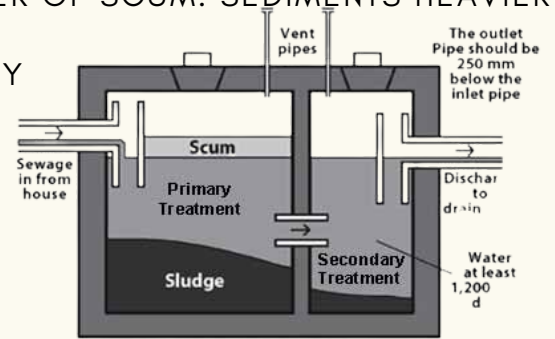


SEPTIC TANK

A SEPTIC TANK IS A MAJOR COMPONENT OF A HSTS SYSTEM. THE TANK IS MADE OF CONCRETE, FIBERGLASS, OR PVC AND CONTAINS BAFFLES AND TEES AT THE INLET AND OUTLET POINTS. THE PORT OPENING SHOULD HAVE A RISER TO GRADE OR ABOVE GRADE OF THE LAWN. THE SEPTIC TANK HOLDS THE WASTEWATER IN THE TANK LONG ENOUGH FOR SOLIDS AND LIQUIDS TO SEPARATE. THE WASTEWATER FORMS THREE LAYERS INSIDE THE TANK. SEDIMENTS LIGHTER THAN WATER (GREASES & OILS) FLOAT TO THE TOP FORMING A LAYER OF SCUM. SEDIMENTS HEAVIER THAN WATER SETTLE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TANK FORMING A LAYER OF SLUDGE. THIS LEAVES A MIDDLE LAYER OF PARTIALLY CLARIFIED WASTEWATER. THE LAYERS OF SLUDGE AND SCUM REMAIN IN THE SEPTIC TANK WHERE BACTERIA FOUND NATURALLY IN THE WASTEWATER WORK TO BREAK THE SOLIDS DOWN. THE SLUDGE AND SCUM THAT CANNOT BE BROKEN DOWN ARE RETAINED IN THE TANK UNTIL THE TANK IS PUMPED.



Typical Septic Tank

SIGNS YOUR SEPTIC TANK IS NOT FUNCTIONING PROPERLY

- SEPTIC ODOR
- WET AREA IN YOUR YARD
- DRAINS DISCHARGING SLOWLY
- TANK OVERFLOWING

SEPTIC TANK SIZING

- 1-2 BEDROOMS - 1,000 GALLONS
- 3 BEDROOMS - 1,500 TWO TANKS OR COMP.
- 4-5 BEDROOMS - 2,000 TWO TANKS OR COMP.
- 6+ BEDROOMS - 1,000 PLUS 250 FOR EACH BEDROOM TWO TANKS OR COMP.

MOUND SYSTEM

THE WASTEWATER EXITS THE SEPTIC TANK AND ENTERS A LIFT STATION. THE WASTEWATER IS THEN PRESSURE DISTRIBUTED OR PUMPED INTO THE MOUND. THE MOUND IS CONSTRUCTED ABOVE GRADE DUE TO A LIMITING CONDITION BELOW THE SURFACE. A LIMITING LAYER CAN BE BEDROCK, A DENSE SOIL, OR SEASONALLY HIGH GROUND-WATER. IN A MOUND SYSTEM SAND IS PLACED ON TOP OF THE NATURAL SOIL TO HELP TREAT AND DISPOSE OF SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT. NEXT A LAYER OF GRAVEL IS PLACED AROUND THE PIPES AND COVERED WITH CONSTRUCTION FABRIC. FINALLY A LAYER OF SOIL IS PLACED OVER THE ENTIRE MOUND TO PROTECT IT FROM FREEZING. THE LAYER OF SOIL IS ALSO NEEDED FOR GROWING GRASS OR OTHER NON-WOODY PLANTS THAT CONTROL EROSION.

