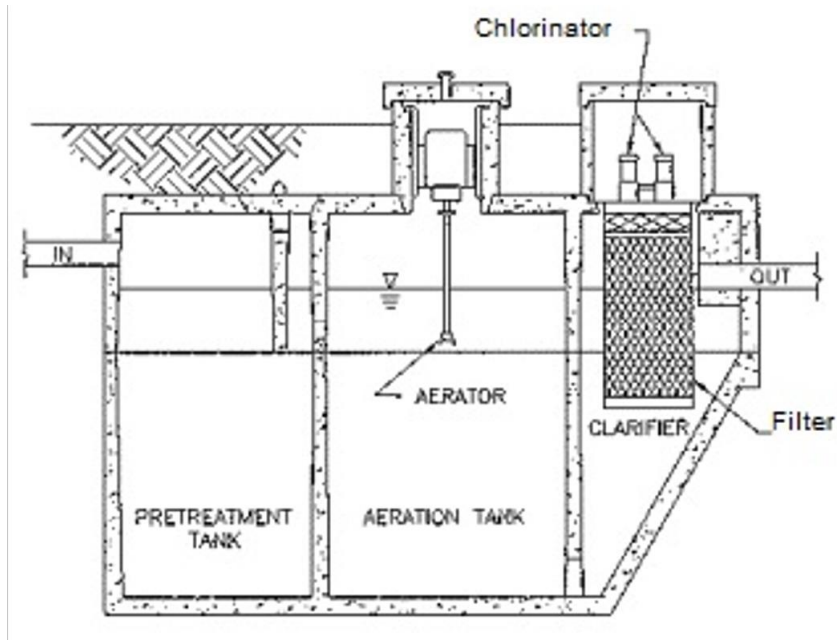


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Septic Systems:

Aerobic systems are mechanical wastewater treatment systems designed to treat wastewater flows from individual homes and are installed when factors prevent the use of traditional systems.

Routine pumping and maintenance are critical to the performance of the aerobic unit!



Reasons for Installing an Aerobic Wastewater Treatment System:

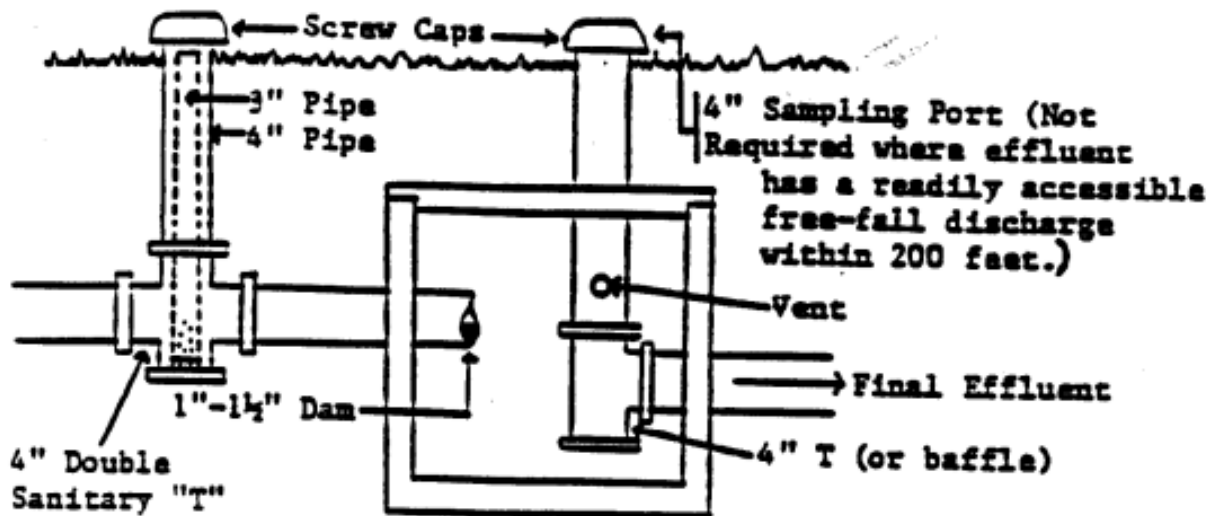
1. High water table
2. Inadequate land available for other wastewater treatment options
3. Topography or soils draining too slowly or too quickly that will not allow the use of a typical subsurface seepage field.

How the Aerobic Unit Functions:

An aerobic unit is usually constructed of concrete, polyethylene, or fiberglass. A compressor continuously pumps air, or a motor agitates air into the aerobic unit ensuring a complete mixing of air and sewage. Oxygen from the air supports the activity of the aerobic bacteria that digest the sewage and liquefy the solids in the wastewater. Some manufacturers require that a “trash tank” be placed before the aerobic unit to help retain solids. Effluent then leaves the aerobic unit passing

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through the chlorine feeder tube (coming in contact with the chloring tablets) and into the chlorinator for a minimum 30-minute contact time. This allows the chlorine time to disinfect the effluent. The wastewater may then be directly discharged to the ground surface provided the effluent quality meets proper wastewater parameters, or the effluent can be discharged to the receiving trenches, evaporation bed, or other approved effluent reduction methods.



Chlorine Feeder/Contact Tank/ Sampling Port

The Chlorinator:

The filtered effluent is then directed to a chlorine feeding unit and a chlorinator. Pathogenic bacteria are present in the aerobic treatment effluent; therefore, it is important that the chlorine disinfectant (chlorine tablets) be continually provided to ensure adequate disinfection of the discharge effluent. This wastewater may then be discharged to the ground surface, provided it maintains the required wastewater parameters and does not cause a ponding or nuisance problem. Otherwise, the effluent may be directed to an evaporation bed, receiving trenches, or another type of approved effluent reduction.

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Maintenance of the Aerobic System:

1. Units with external compressors should be periodically inspected to ensure proper functioning.
2. Your aerobic unit has both an audible and visual alarm. The alarm should occasionally be tested to ensure proper functioning. If your alarm activates, contact your service representative/installation contractor immediately.
3. Keeping chlorine in the chlorine feeder is essential. The chlorine disinfects the effluent before it is discharged. The rate at which the chlorine tablets are dissolved is directly related to water usage. Start by putting a few tablets in the chlorine feeder tube and check once a week. If at the end of the week chlorine is not present, you will need to check the feeder tube more often and adjust accordingly. It is very important not to overstock the chlorine feeder tube with chlorine tablets, as the chlorine tablets will expand not allowing them to drop, thus the disinfection process will not take place.
4. Keep the discharge pipe free from obstructions (i.e., leaves, soil, etc.) that may cover or clog the outlet.
5. Keep the finished grade of the lawn at least 2 inches below the top of your aerobic unit to allow easy access.
6. Have the aerobic unit pumped by a licensed pumper in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.

A two-year service contract is provided at the time of installation by the installation contractor.

7. Practice water conservation. Repair leaking water fixtures, operate washing machines and dishwashers only when full, avoid taking long showers, and install water saving fixtures designed for toilets, faucets, and shower heads.
8. Make sure that the sump pump, footing tiles, and other clear water discharges have been routed away from the septic system.

Have your aerobic unit serviced according to the service contract provided by your installation contractor.

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Tips to Avoid Problems:

1. DO NOT dispose of hazardous chemicals, grease, disposable diapers, plastics, latex, paints, pesticides, solvents, oven cleans, degreasers, tobacco products, coffee grounds, wet strength, paper towels, or sanitary item into your system.
2. DO NOT allow surface water to pool/pond at the unit.
3. Use low-sudsing, low phosphate, biodegradable detergents.
4. Periodically test the alarm to ensure proper functioning of both the audio and visual indicators.
5. DO NOT install a garbage disposal or grinder.
6. DO NOT allow water softener backwash to be directed to the aerobic unit, as this may void your warranty.

DO NOT DO ALL LAUNDRY AT ONCE (THIS WILL OVERLOAD THE SYSTEM). SPACE THE LOADS EVENLY THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

Aerobic System Warning Signs:

1. Alarm activates.
2. Excessive solids, foam, or scum in the unit.
3. Abnormal operating sounds or not operating at all.
4. Wastewater color changes in the aeration chamber. The normal color of the effluent in the chamber is chocolate brown.
5. Plumbing back-ups or slow drainage.
6. Sewage odors inside or outside the home.