

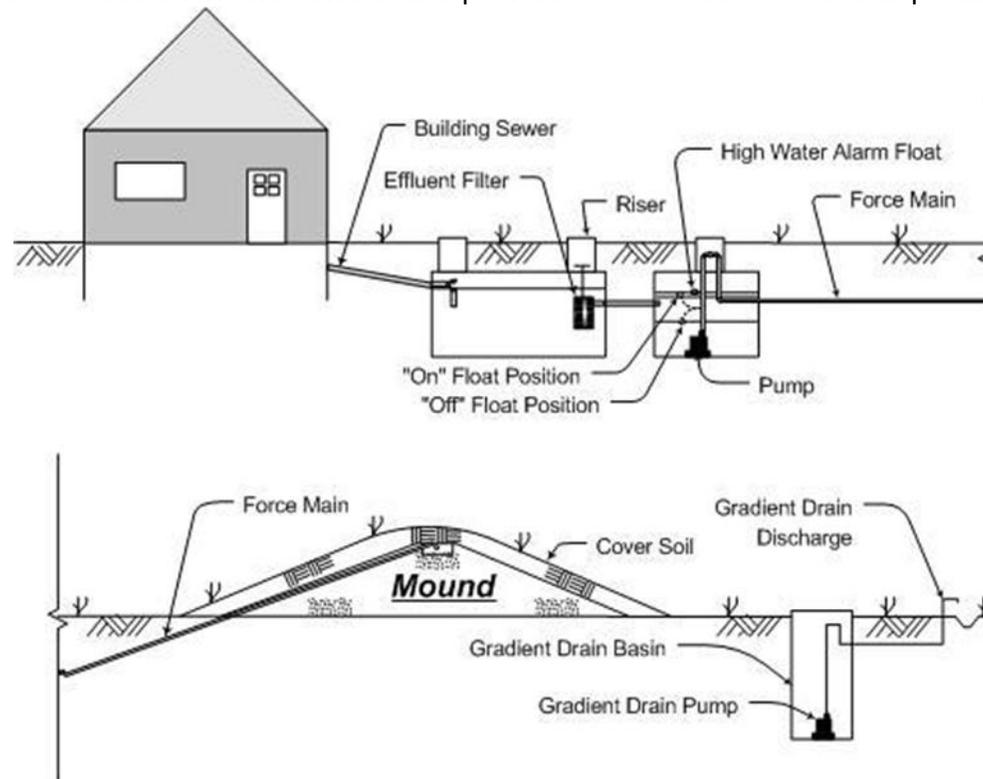


Clermont County Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Care and Maintenance of your Mound Sewage Treatment System

This system uses sand placed on top of the natural soil to treat wastewater. As shown below, the wastewater is pumped to the mound from a lift station. Pipes in a gravel layer above the sand distribute the wastewater under pressure. After the wastewater passes through the sand, the natural soil absorbs the wastewater and provides further treatment and disposal.



Tank Care: Live bacteria in the septic tank provide biological treatment. Keep products harmful to bacteria out of the tank. Antibacterial soaps and disinfectant cleaners, excessive bleach, antibiotics, pesticides and poisons, drain cleaners, solvents, and automobile fluids are examples of harmful products. Chemotherapy and radiation therapy products may also kill bacteria in the tank. Dead tank bacteria provide no treatment, resulting in little settling of suspended solids, rapid accumulation of sludge, and higher maintenance costs. A dead tank will cause the system to clog and fail if the condition is not corrected in time. An in-sink garbage disposal is not recommended and, if used, will require more frequent septic tank pumping. Dispose of fats, oils and grease with your solid trash. **Avoid additives and products that claim to dissolve tank solids.** Keep non-soluble wastes, such as plastics and cigarette butts, pet wastes, cat litter, paint, construction and cleaning wastes out of your septic system. Also avoid disposing of paper products, (except toilet paper approved for septic tanks). **The General Rule is: Don't put anything into your septic system that has not gone through your body first.**

Maintenance Tips

Have your tank pumped out by a registered septage hauler every 3 to 5 years, or as needed (see attached guidance for tank maintenance and pumping schedules). Septic tank risers (properly located and sealed to the tank) and lids simplify access to the tank for inspection and service. If your tank doesn't have an access riser, installing one is recommended. A riser should extend high enough above the ground surface to allow soil to be placed around it and sloped away, to keep surface water from ponding. Any riser must have a child proof lid installed. Keep a record of pumping and other maintenance.

Your mound system has electrical components for the pump in the dosing tank and, in most cases, for a gradient/curtain drain sump pump. Check the circuit breaker for your system, the condition of the wiring and connections, as well as the pump(s), on a regular basis. Underground electric service should be checked by a qualified person for proper grounding. Any electrical repairs should be completed by a qualified person and may require an inspection from the Clermont County Building Department.

DO NOT OVERLOAD YOUR MOUND SYSTEM beyond its capacity to absorb the wastewater from your home. **WATER CONSERVATION is a must.** Repair any leaking faucets or toilets. Use water saving appliances and devices, such as faucets, shower heads, and toilets. Take short showers and spread doing laundry throughout the week.

Divert all surface water away from your mound system. This includes roof drains, footer drains, and sump pump discharges. Eliminate any standing water around the mound by filling in low spots with good quality topsoil when the ground is dry.

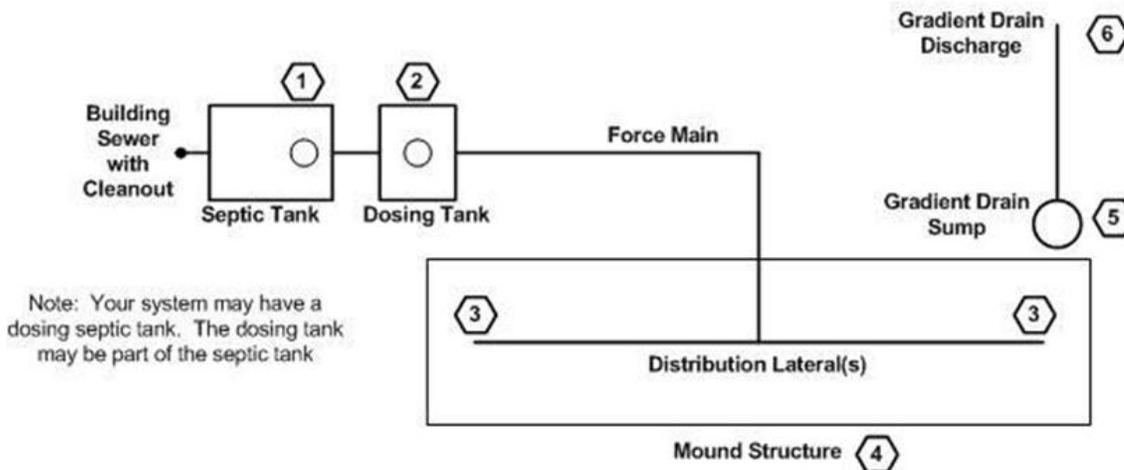
Keep a good stand of grass or vegetation on and around the mound. The mound should have vegetation mowed a minimum of twice per year. Trees and shrubs should not be planted directly on the mound. Landscaping near the mound, to blend the mound into the surrounding area, should be done with special care to avoid damage to the system (buried electric and piping exist).

Protect your system from damage. Do not allow anyone to park or drive over any portion of the system. Do not construct driveways or structures within 10 feet of the mound or in its replacement area. Livestock should not be allowed to graze on or near the mound, nor should pets be allowed to dig in the area. Do not excavate around your system, such as for an in-ground swimming pool or room addition, without first applying at the Health District for an inspection in advance.

If you experience slow draining toilets or drains, sewage backup into the house or smell strong sewage odors, your system may be malfunctioning. Call a bonded and registered service provider.

PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT by providing routine maintenance to your mound sewage treatment system. A properly maintained mound system can effectively treat wastewater for years.

Wisconsin Mound (Type H Structure) Annual Maintenance



- ① Effluent Filter (if applicable) - Remove lids from septic tank. Remove filter from its housing. Using a garden hose, rinse filter over the first compartment of the septic tank—all drainage should fall into the septic tank. After all solids on filter have been removed, return filter into housing. Replace all lids.
- ② Disable pump by shutting off its electric service. Remove dosing tank lid. Note water level in the tank and look for any signs of water or root infiltration. Inspect all visible electrical connections. Any connections having questionable integrity should be replaced by a qualified individual (inspection by Building Department may be required). If flushing laterals at this time, ensure there is an adequate water supply in dosing tank. The visual and audible high water alarm operation needs to be verified by lifting the high water alarm float.
- ③ Lateral Cleanout Connections - Remove access port lids. Gently grab and twist the exposed PVC wye to check integrity of glued joint. If loose, repair connection. For each lateral cleanout: 1) remove horizontal screw-on cleanout cap; 2) engage pump; 3) run pump until water exiting lateral is free of solids; 4) replace screw-on cap; and 5) repeat for all laterals.
- ④ Mound Structure - Visually inspect mound for animal burrows, lack of vegetative cover (reseed if necessary), saplings/other large shrub-like plants, wet spots, areas that can pond water and any missing/damaged observation port/cleanout port lids. Correct deficiency as noted.
- ⑤ Gradient Drain Sump - (May not be present on all mound systems) Remove basin lid. Disable pump by turning off its electrical service. Inspect all visible electrical connections, correcting any deficiencies (inspection by Building Department may be required). Restore power to pump. Start pump by lifting the float until pump activates.
- ⑥ Gradient Drain Discharge Point - Check for free flowing discharge from this pipe. Inspect for any adverse erosion conditions, add splash guard as necessary. Verify that water is moving away from the discharge point.