



Your septic system is a life support system for your home or Business. A typical household treatment system consists of a **house sewer line, Septic tank, distribution box/junction boxes, absorption fields or seepage pits.**

House Sewer line- The pipe line that Connects the house plumbing to the septic tank.

Septic tank- The septic tank provides needed treatment to household wastes. When sewage enters the septic tank, the heavy solids, fats and greases partially decompose and rise to the surface and form a layer of scum. Solids that have settled at the bottom are attacked by bacteria and form a sludge.

Distribution /junction box- The box serves to distribute the flow of effluent from the septic tank evenly to the absorption fields.

Absorption Field- A system of narrow trenches partially filled with a bed of washed gravel into which perforated pipe is placed. The discharge from the septic tank is distributed through these pipes into the trenches and the surrounding soils. The absorption field must be properly sized and constructed to assure satisfactory operation and longevity.

Operation and Maintenance

As a home owner using a septic system, you should be aware of the following:

- The septic tank should be pumped every two to three years
- Detergents, kitchen wastes, laundry and household chemicals in normal amounts do not affect the proper operation of household sewage treatment systems. However, excessive quantities can be harmful.
- Garbage grinders will increase the accumulation of solids in the septic tank and cause havoc in

the leaching fields. The disadvantages outweigh the convenience they provide and therefore should not be used.

- Do not dispose of cigarette butts, disposable wipes, diapers, sanitary napkins, plastics, trash, etc. in your sewage system.
- Septic tank additives are not recommended and are not necessary for proper operation.

Signs of Failure

Signs of septic system failure can include smelly surface water above the septic tank or leaching area, lush growth of grass, waste water draining slowly or back-up from toilets and sinks.

Contact Us:

H.P.Barnes, Inc.
P.O.Box 266, Bedford Hills, NY 10507

914-490-4577 Ted Barnes (Cell)

914-666-2570 office

845-278-7073 office

HPBarnesInc@comcast.net

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