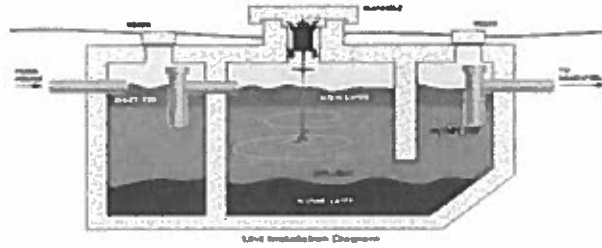


# Operation and Maintenance of your Aerobic Sewage Treatment System



Your system includes or may include:

- a sewer line cleanout near building foundation
- a building sewer line that connects plumbing to sewage treatment system
- a septic tank (if not part of the aeration unit)
- an aeration unit
- a control panel or timer
- a motor
- a filter (an effluent filter, nylon mesh filter, upflow filter, or sand filter)
- a dosing tank with pump and high water alarm
- disinfection system (uv light unit or chlorinator)
- sampling well
- discharge outlet

Maintenance must be performed by a registered service provider. A contact list will be available at the health department. If you are the system owner and would like to service your own system, contact the health department for certification.

## Operation and Maintenance Instructions

1. It is strongly recommended, and for some systems required that a service contract for routine maintenance be obtained from a trained service provider. Do not rely only on operation inspection services from our department. Any time your motor is inoperable, sewage is being discharged creating a public health nuisance.
2. Keep products that are harmful to bacteria, such as, antibacterial soaps, disinfectants, antibiotics, drain cleaners, solvents or other harmful chemicals out of the septic tank. A bacteria kill-off causes improper settling of solids and/ or a rapid accumulation of sludge which results in higher maintenance costs or discharge of untreated sewage.
3. Keep non-soluble wastes, such as, cigarette butts, condoms, tampons, sanitary napkins, plastics, paint, plaster or other construction wastes out of the sewage treatment system. These products do not break down and may damage system components or clog a filter leading to a costly sewage back up.
4. Do not overload your system with too much water. Water conservation is necessary for any sewage treatment system. Ways to conserve daily water usage may include: 1.) Checking for and repairing any leaking toilet flappers or faucets. 2.) Installing water saving appliances and fixtures. 3.) Taking shorter showers. 4.) Spreading laundry loads throughout the week.
5. Check your motor and timer monthly. Listen for the sound of the motor running. When the motor is operating properly, but not running due to the timer's cycle, the motor should be warm to the touch. Condensation on the motor is an indication of an inoperable motor. All motors should run for a duration of at least 30 minutes of every hour. If the motor requires replacement, it must be replaced with the original manufacturer's motor for aeration system. While the motor is running, check the air intake to be sure it is drawing air. Aspirator shafts and air filters need regular cleaning to ensure proper air flow.

**Common Aerator Motors:**



Coates Aerator Motor



Oldham Aerator Motor



Cajun Aire and Hoot Aerator Motor

Jet Aerator Motor (Below)

Norweco Aerator Motor (Below)



6. **Clean the filter regularly.** Some aerobic systems have an effluent filter installed in the exit baffle of the tank. This filter needs cleaning every **6 to 12 months**. To clean the filter: 1.) Remove the lids from the tank. 2.) Then remove the filter from the tee baffle. 3.) Using a garden hose, rinse filter allowing drainage to fall into the first compartment of the tank. 4.) Reinstall filter and lids.



Norweco systems use a nylon mesh filter located in the third compartment. This filter needs to be removed and cleaned at least once annually. If your system has an upflow filter, it should be pumped every **1 to 3 years** or when tank is pumped. Sand filters also should be cleaned regularly to prevent clogging and ponding of effluent.

7. **You should have the first compartment of the aeration tank pumped out by a registered septage hauler every 2 to 3 years.** Keep a record of all pumping and other maintenance.
8. **Your system has electrical components that need to be checked regularly.** 1.) Check the pump, floats, high water alarm, or aeration motor as applicable monthly to ensure proper operation. 2.) Check condition of wiring to all components and make repairs as needed. Replacements or repairs must be performed by a registered service provider.
9. **Maintain outlet at the discharge point** by preventing siltation and over growth of vegetation at the end of the pipe. Water should flow freely from discharge point. (For discharging systems only).
10. **Maintain the disinfection system.** If your system has a chlorinator, chlorine tabets designed for wastewater contact, not for swimming pools, should be in place at all times and should be added monthly. UV light systems must also be checked regularly. Bulbs may need frequent replacement.

**NOTE: A properly operating aeration system will not eliminate all disease causing organisms, it simply reduces them. People and pets should always be kept away from the discharge area.**