



How your on-site septic system works

The District owns and operates a "septic tank effluent pump" STEP system. This means that every building connected to the sewer system has a septic tank with a pump system in it. Primary treatment of waste happens in the septic tank. The pump system pumps wastewater from the septic tank into the District's collection system, which then goes to the treatment plant. It is called a secondary treatment plant. We treat the wastewater that would go into a septic drainfield if you had a private on-site septic system. Our system eliminates the septic drainfield.

You, as the property owner, own the septic tank. You are responsible for the plumbing from the building to the septic tank including the condition of the septic tank. If the septic tank ever becomes inadequate for use, then the property owner will be responsible for replacing it.

The District is responsible for the pump system inside the septic tank and all appurtenances under normal conditions. We highly discourage anyone from opening the lids on the septic tank and messing with the pump system. The District performs all maintenance necessary to ensure proper function, which includes pumping the septic tank when needed. The septic tank maintains a level that is almost always 3/4 full so we do not pump it when it is full. A properly functioning septic tank allows solids to separate from the liquid. The solids build up over time and the District will pump when the level of solids in the tank become very high. The pump in the tank has a float system which measures the level of water. When the water level becomes high the pump turns on and pumps the wastewater that has separated from the solids into the collection system. The electrical control panel that operates the pump system is usually located in the vicinity of the septic tank. This control panel has an alarm system so if there is any problem with the pump or controls, the alarm will sound and the red button on the outside of the box will light up. It is imperative that the property owner maintain electricity to the control panel and pump system at all times. DO NOT turn off the breaker in order to silence the alarm or turn the power off to the house. The only thing that you need to do is call the District office and let us know when the alarm sounds or when you are experiencing backup problems. It is important that you do this right away because the sooner we can respond the more likely that we can avoid any serious problems with the system, like a backup.

Property owners do not need to have their on-site septic system inspected. In fact, it is against the District's rules and regulations for anyone but District personnel to perform repairs and maintenance of the on-site septic system.