

|                             | Example of STEP Tank                                     | <b>P</b> |
|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| WASTEWATER<br>FROM DWELLING | INLET BAFFLE<br>FLOATING SCUM LAYER<br>EFFLUENT<br>LUDGE |          |

## SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT PUMPING (STEP)

As part of your wastewater collection system, you own a S.T.E.P. tank located on your property. This watertight tank is designated and constructed to receive and partially treat raw domestic sanitary wastewater. In a S.T.E.P. tank, heavy solids settle to the bottom of the tank while grease and lighter solids float to the top. The liquids then pass through a filter and enter the effluent chamber until the liquid is pumped from the chamber by the effluent pump for further treatment at the WWTF owned by Ozarks Clean Water Company. Because solids build up at the bottom of the tank, it is important to have the sludge removed from the tank regularly to prevent damage to the effluent pump. Removal can be accomplished using a residential pumping company. Sludge buildup can also cause backups into your home or yard and create a costly repair bill. PH:417-739-4119 11 Oak Drive | PO Box 973 Kimberling City, MO 65686

**Tip** To prevent buildup, sludge and floating scum need to be removed through periodic pumping of the septic tank.

Regular inspections every 1 to 2 years and pumping are the best and cheapest way to keep your septic system in good working order.

### HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR STEP SYSTEM

#### USE WATER EFFICIENTLY

### **FLUSH RESPONSIBLY**

Never flush dental floss, fats, oils, or grease (FOG), feminine hygiene products, condoms, diapers, wipes, cotton swabs, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, cat litter, or other items that can clog and potentially damage your STEP system.

MINIMIZE USE OF GARBAGE DISPOSALS

# **FAILURE CAUSES**

Household cleaners For the most part, your septic system's bacteria should recover quickly after small amounts of household cleaning products have entered the system. Regardless of the type of product, use it only in the amounts shown on the label instructions and minimize the amount discharged into your septic system. Hot tubs Hot tubs are a great way to relax. Unfortunately, your septic system was not designed to handle large quantities of water from your hot tub. Emptying hot tub water into your septic system stirs the solids in the tank causing it to overflow, clog and fail.

**Garbage disposals** Eliminating the use of a garbage disposal can reduce the amount of grease and solids entering the septic tank and possibly clogging the system.



## WHAT TO DO WHEN THE ALARM GOES OFF



### Steps:

- 1.) Locate control panel and silence the alarm with button or switch.
- 2.) Next, check the septic breaker to ensure the system has power.
- 3.) If the breaker is on, check to see if there is standing water surrounding the tank.
- 4.) If your home has had heavy water usage allow the system time to catch up.
- 5.) If the red light goes out, that means the system is working properly and just needed to catch up with the excess water overflow in the tank.
- 6.) However, if the red light is still on, contact a septic company (like OES) for emergency service.

### KNOW YOUR RESPOSIBILITIES

- Label your circuit breakers Know which circuit breaker in your house supplies power to your STEP pump.
- Know the location of your service panel Be aware of the location of the grey electrical service control panel outside of your home.
- Know what to do in case of a power failure If a power outage occurs, it is not necessary to call a plumber. Your system is designed to work normally once power returns.