WASTEWATER

POLICIES AND CHARGES

SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT COLLECTION SYSTEM

MARSHALL COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

July 5, 2007

1. The sewer use charge for residential customers will be a fee of $40.00 per month. Marshall County Board of Public Utilities (MCBPU) may periodically adjust sewer use charges to account for increases or decreases in operation and maintenance costs of the sewer system.

2. MCBPU owns and maintains the septic tank and all equipment associated with the septic tank on the customer's property, including the septic tank control panel, service line piping from the septic tank to sewer main, risers, valves, and valve boxes. MCBPU provides pumping and disposal of septic tank sludge and scum as needed. The cost of a sewer connection fee is $750.00 due when purchasing the water tap.

3. The customer owns and is responsible for maintaining the sewer service line from the home to the septic tank and all wiring and breakers from the building electrical service panel to the septic tank control panel.

4. Damage to MCBPU sewer facilities caused by misuse or abuse by others, as determined by MCBPU, will be the responsibility of the customer. Repairs for such damage will be performed by MCBPU. The cost of those repairs will be charged to the customer. Customers shall follow directions in MCBPU's "USER'S MANUAL FOR EFFLUENT COLLECTION SYSTEMS" for use of the sewer system facilities serving their home.

5. The customer shall allow unhindered access to MCBPU sewer facilities for maintenance. Fences shall not be placed around MCBPU sewer facilities.

6. The customer shall pay all electricity costs associated with the sewer system serving their house.

WASTEWATER
USER'S MANUAL
DO'S AND DON'TS
FOR
WASTEWATER EFFLUENT COLLECTION SYSTEM

It's important to understand that the first step to a successful sewage treatment and disposal system begins with homeowner education. A knowledgeable homeowner can prevent premature failures and eliminate costly repairs. Your effluent collection system is composed of a septic tank, with filter and pump, and plastic sewer mains. All waste from your house flows into the septic tank where it is digested. The solids settle to the bottom of the tank. The scum floats to the top. The middle portion of the tank remains fairly clear. The clear liquid is pumped out of the tank into the pressure sewer main.

ITEMS THAT CAUSE PROBLEMS AND/OR FAILURE OF THIS SYSTEM ARE:

1. Excessive sludge or scum accumulation in septic tank
2. Excessive water usage
3. Some fabric softeners and whiteners
4. Excessive grease and oil from food processing
5. Hair from hair cutting
6. Diapers, rags, cigarette filters, coffee grounds, plastic, and rubber products (condoms), and chemical cleaners
7. Any non-biologically degradable substances will cause problems in the treatment and disposal.

A properly maintained septic tank provides a high degree of treatment and yields an effluent that is relatively free of greases and solids that can clog the effluent filter and pump. The best practice is not to discharge anything into a septic system that is poisonous or that may inhibit the abilities of the bacteria living and working there. An excellent guideline that should be practiced in every household is not to dispose anything into the septic tank that hasn't first been ingested, with the exception of toil paper and mild detergents.

The following tips and recommendations list good health practices that will help to insure a long life for your septic tank system and minimal maintenance.

DO'S

Do call Marshall County Board of Public Utilities at (931) 359-6905 whenever the alarm comes on (it sounds like a smoke alarm). The audible alarm can be silenced by pushing the illuminated light located directly above the "PUSH TO SILENCE" label on the front of the electrical control panel. With normal use, the tank has a reserve storage capacity good for 48 hours.

Do familiarize yourself with the location of the electrical control panel and note the number on the panel.

Do practice water conservation. By reducing the amount of water going into your system you can extend the life of the system and reduce the power consumption. Wash clothes and dishes only when you have a full load. When possible avoid several loads in one day.

Do be aware that a simple toilet float can hang up and result in over 2,000 gallons per day of wasted water; normal household usage ranges from 300 to 500 gallons per day.

During a power failure, STEP tanks (those with a pump) cannot discharge their effluent. Use water going to the septic tank sparingly in the event of a power failure, as the tank has limited extra storage.

DON'TS

Don't dispose water softener backwash in the tank. The backwash brine contains high levels of chlorides that can destroy the microorganisms and inhibit the biological digestion that occurs in the septic tank. The brine solution also interferes with the solid's sedimentation that occurs in the tank and may increase the flow through the tank from 25 to 50 percent.

Don't connect rain gutters or storm drains or allow other surface water to get into your septic system. This additional water will overload your septic tank system and cause a premature failure. Your septic system was designed only for domestic water use.

Don't use excessive quantities of water. Repair leaky toilets, faucets or plumbing fixtures (leaky toilets can result in excess flows at 1 gallon per. minute). Use water saving devices such as low flow showerheads and low volume flush toilets.

Don't flush undesirable substances into the sewer. Flushing flammable and toxic products such as paints, paint thinners, solvents, disinfectants, poisons, and other household chemicals is dangerous, while other materials such as paper towels, rags, newspaper, cigarettes, coffee grounds, egg shells, sanitary napkins, condoms, large amounts of hair and cooking grease are a maintenance nuisances and will require frequent pumping of septage from the tank.

Don't use garbage disposal systems to dispose of non-biodegradable materials because they increase the amount of solids entering the septic tank and the frequency of required septage pumping. Compost scraps or dispose with your trash. ***Collect grease in a container rather than disposing down the drain. Do not pour grease down the drain. Pouring grease down the drain is your fastest way to ensure a failing system – and expensive repair.***

Don't use special additives that claim they will enhance the performance of your tank. ***Additives do not improve the performance of the septic tanks*** and can cause major damage to your drain field or other areas in the collection system. The natural microorganisms and bacteria that form in your system are sufficient. These organisms generate their own enzymes for breaking down and digesting nutrients.

Don't drive vehicles or heavy equipment over sewer facilities.

Don't plan any building, fence or driveway additions over or near the sewer facilities.

SUBSTITUTES FOR
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Replace the following hazardous products with ones less environmental harmful. The hazardous cleaners are listed in bold face, followed by the suggested substitute.

AMMONIA-BASED CLEANERS: Sprinkle Baking Soda on a damp sponge. For windows, use a solution of 2 Tbs. White Vinegar to 1 qt. Water. Place the mixture into the spray bottle.

DISINFECTANTS: Use Borax: ½ cup in a gallon of water deodorizes also.

DRAIN DECLOGGERS: Use a Plunger or Metal Snake, or remove and clean trap.

SCOURING CLEANERS AND POWDERS: Sprinkle Baking soda on a damp sponge or add 4 Tbs. Baking Soda to 1 qt. Warm water or use Bon Ami. It's cheaper and won't scratch.

CARPET/UPHOLSTERY CLEANERS: Sprinkle Dry cornstarch or Baking soda on, then vacuum. For tougher stains, blot with White Vinegar in soapy water.

TOILET CLEANERS: Sprinkle on Baking Soda or Bon Ami, and then scrub with a toilet brush.

FURNITURE/FLOOR POLISHERS: To clean, use Oil Soap and warm water. Dry with soft cloth. Polish with 1 part Lemon Juice to 2 part Oil (any kind), or use natural products with Lemon Oil or Beeswax in Mineral Oil.

METAL CLEANERS: Quickly sprinkle salt on drips, then scrub. Use Baking Soda and scouring pads on older spills.

LAUNDRY DETERGENT: Choose one with **zero phosphate** content or use Soap Flakes with ⅓ cup of washing soda. (Before switching, wash clothes in pure washing soda to remove detergent residues.)