

# SAVE!

Landscaping • Time • Money



The White Knight™ is designed to reopen soil passages clogged by biological clogging and maintain the soil in that condition. Its primary application is in the remediation of failed or stressed soil based treatment/dispersal components. The White Knight™ has been utilized to recover failed sand filters and to enhance treatment of other secondary systems.



## SEPTIC SKEPTIC



Independent Septic Inspectors

Post Office Box 461  
Gualala, CA 95445

Certification #'s 13533WT & 111934IC

[www.septicskeptic.com](http://www.septicskeptic.com)

**(707) 884-5080**

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## SEPTIC SKEPTIC

**Maintenance, Precautionary  
Measures & Water  
Conservation Tips For  
Septic System Owners**



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# SEPTIC SKEPTIC

Our mission is to protect the health of the general public and the environment through monitoring and education. This brochure has been designed to aid homeowners with information about maintenance needs, precautionary measures and water conservation tips for septic systems.

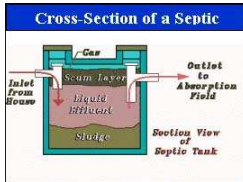
## HOW A SEPTIC TANK WORKS

A septic tank is actually two chambers divided by a wall.

Household liquid and solid waste flow into the inlet side of the septic tank where the solids settle. Oils and grease float to the surface as "scum".

Anaerobic bacteria help to decompose solids in the inlet side of the tank. This is known as "Sludge".

The liquid, called effluent, then flows through a baffle in the tank wall and out to the drain field.



## TYPES OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS

There are various types of septic systems. Here are just a few examples:

**Standard gravity systems** flow directly from the septic tank to the drain field.

**Pump and pressure distribution systems** are necessary when the septic tank is located at an elevation lower than the drain field.

**Dual fields** provide the ability to annually alternate drain lines.

## SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Drain fields with manual diversion valves must be switched annually so that one field can restore itself while the other field accepts the load.

Effluent filters should be cleaned annually.

Pressure distribution systems must be purged annually.

## PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

Instead of having a laundry day, stretch it out during the week.

Avoid using the garbage disposal. It can account for up to 1/3 of the total solids in the tank. It also adds a significant amount of liquid to the drain field.

Watch for surface or ground water intrusion into the septic tank or pump chamber.

Never drive, store wood or other materials or place burn piles on your drain field.

Do not use septic tank additives. Root-X treatments are recommended for brushy or wooded drain field areas.

Always direct drains, French drains, and downspouts away from the drain field.

Building set backs from the tank and the drain field are 5 ft. and 8 ft., respectively.

## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Showers are preferable to baths as they use less water.

Run the dishwasher with a full load.

Repair household fixture leaks immediately (faucets, sinks, toilets).



## HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE

It is important to keep hazardous household waste from entering your septic system. Items such as paint,

solvents, grease, oil, large amounts of cleaners or bleach, any type of paper products (towels, napkins, tampons, diapers), condoms, coffee grounds, eggshells, kitty litter, etc.

These items will either not "break down" well or are toxic to septic tank bacterial.



## SEPTIC WARNING SIGNS

Are you experiencing slow drains, toilets, sinks, or showers? Do you have moist or wet spots in your yard? Is there notably greener growth in your septic area? Are there unpleasant septic odors? Does your neighbor come out on their porch with a clothes pin on their nose?



**These are signs of an impaired septic system.** Immediate inspection can help prevent failure and appropriate service can save on costly repairs.

## ABOUT THE SEPTIC SKEPTIC

Our purpose is to provide inspection services for both commercial and residential clients. Trust the Septic Skeptic for all of your real estate transactions, septic system diagnosis, and/or operation and maintenance services.

A complete septic system inspection provides you with a detailed, unbiased report of the type, functionality, size age and history (if available) of the septic system. We review and maintain a copy of the septic system plan from the County Environmental Health Department (when available). Our written report will provide you with repair and maintenance suggestions and upgrade potential along with current overall drain field conditions.

Our inspectors are certified by the National Association of Waste Transporters (# 13533WT & 111934IC). In addition, the Owner, Russel Hayter, has completed curriculum through California State University Sacramento School of Engineering, the National Sanitation Foundation Inspector and Proctor courses and the California On-site Waste Water O&M course #1.

All inspections are confidential and payment is due at time of service.

**Call us to discuss a free septic discussion!**

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