HOW TO CLEAN YOUR SEPTIC TANK FILTER

What is a septic tank filter? The filter is a plastic device installed inside the outlet baffle of the septic tank to prevent small solids from draining out into the leach lines. The solids may cause the leach lines to prematurely plug and may shorten the lifespan of the leach lines and sewage system.

THE SEPTIC TANK FILTER MUST BE CLEANED OR THE SEPTIC TANK WILL BACK UP AND CAUSE THE PLUMBING TO DRAIN SLOWLY.

Unscrew the septic tank outlet riser and remove the lid. You may have a concrete lid instead of a plastic lid.

The septic tank filter is installed inside the outlet baffle or "tee". There may or may not be a handle on the filter.

Remove the filter from the baffle. Use a small hoe or rake or pull it out by hand. Wear disposable gloves for protection.

Clean the filter with a hose and spray nozzle. Rinse the solids and waste back into the septic tank.

Inspect the filter for damage or plugged slots before placing the filter back into the baffle or "tee".

Once all debris has been removed re-install the filter properly. There may be an arrow on the filter for proper installation.

Place the riser lid back on the septic tank and screw on the lid.

The Greene County Combined Health District recommends that the septic tank filter be cleaned every three to six (3-6) months. Each homeowner must determine how often their septic tank filter must be cleaned. Registered Service Providers, Registered Sewage System Installers and Registered Septic Tank Cleaners are available to clean the filter if you prefer.

A current list of service providers, sewage system installers or septic tank cleaners is available from the Health District. If you would like additional information about the location, care and maintenance of your sewage treatment system contact us.

Public Health
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