

TEST YOUR WELL

As summer approaches and many of the District's residents are preparing to enjoy another summer of fun and activity in the Geneva Lake area, the Linn Sanitary District would like to remind you to test your drinking water well. It is up to the home owner to assure their drinking water is potable and of good quality. The Linn Sanitary District strongly encourages home owners to test their wells annually, usually in the spring. If your water has been turned off or has not been used for several weeks, it is good to test your water when you turn it back on and before you drink it. The most common parameter tested for is coliform bacteria. If you have some taste, color or odor problems consider testing for additional parameters.

If you are interested in testing your well visit the following web pages or call us at 262-245-4532. Depending upon what you want to test for, there are specific protocols and bottles that must be used.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wells/privateWellTest.html>

Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene:
<http://www.slh.wisc.edu/ehd/watermicro/>

A REMINDER

We are grateful to the many district residents who took the time and effort to improve or repair their systems. On behalf of the lake and all those who drink the groundwater, thank you.

The Linn Sanitary District is working with the Walworth County Sanitation Division to get all POWTS within the District up to a functioning properly. There are still several systems identified by our inspection program as having some serious problems that still need to be rectified.

The Linn Sanitary District has met on several occasions with the Walworth County Sanitation Division to discuss options for upgrading those systems that are still problematic. Those who have not done anything to upgrade their failing systems will be hearing from us and the Walworth County Sanitation Division soon.

If you have question on your private on-site wastewater treatment system or well feel free to contact the Linn Sanitary District at 262-245-4532.



LINN SANITARY DISTRICT

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<http://www.townoflinn.com/Sanitary.htm>

SUMMER 2013 Newsletter

***-FOR OUR HEALTH-
-AND GENEVA LAKE'S
PROTECTION-***

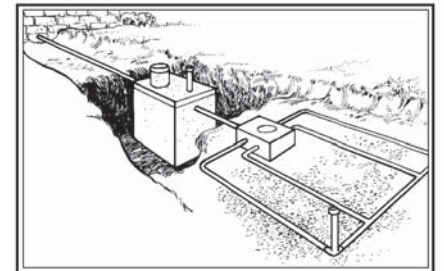
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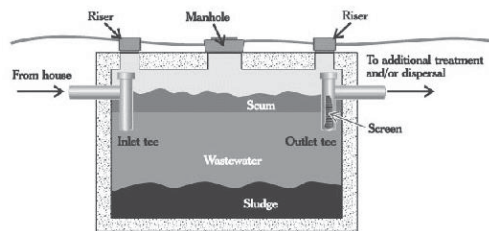
The Septic Tank

Private On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS) come in many sizes and shapes with different components as dictated by the site. Their ultimate goal is to trap the solids and other non-decomposable material in your waste stream and to discharge the liquids to the soil at a rate and means that allows the soil to treat the remaining dissolved pollutants by biological uptake and chemical binding.

A typical POWTS is comprised of a septic tank and a Soil Absorption System (SAS). In our 2012 summer newsletter, we discussed the many types of SAS's and how they work. This newsletter will discuss the several different types of tanks that can be associated with a POWTS.

The septic tank is generally a tank buried in the ground somewhere between the residence and the SAS.

Typical single-compartment septic tank with ground-level inspection risers and screen



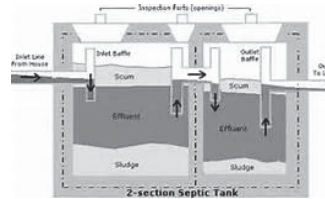
The Codes specifically define what septic tanks can be made of and how they should be sized. In

general they must be water tight except for approved access holes for an inlet and outlet pipe and a manhole or inspection holes on top.

In order to keep the sludge on the bottom and to prevent the top scum from leaving the tank, baffles are installed on the inlet and outlet pipes. A baffle is nothing more than a 90° elbow or a “T” that mounts on the end of the pipe. The inlet baffles dampens the disturbance of the wastewater running into the tank from re-suspending the sludge. The outlet baffle keeps the scum and other floating material from passing through to the SAS. If solids, sludge or scum gets into the SAS they could plug the soil and make the SAS incapable of doing its job. That means eventual septic back-up into the house or the yard.

If your POWTS involves the movement of wastewater uphill from your tank, as in a mound, it will have a pump located in a dousing or pumping chamber.

These pumping chambers can either be in a separate tank down flow from the septic tank or, as in many of the newer tanks, can be a second compartment in the septic tank.



POWTS Add-ons

As technology improves, more advanced systems and improvements are coming on the market to help in the treatment and longevity of POWTS. Some of the more promising are:

Effluent filters: Filters that mount on the outlet



pipe or in the outlet baffle that trap fine floating material that will not breakdown in the tank. Effluent filters are now required on new systems.

Cleanout ports for mounds: These help access the piping in a mound or above grade SAS to allow cleaning out the biological film or “sludge” that builds up on the inside of the SAS's distribution pipes.

Risers on manhole and observation ports:

These allow the access points to the tank to be brought up to or slightly above grade. This makes location and access easier for maintenance. It also reminds the owner of the type of wastewater treatment that is present and that it needs occasional maintenance. Landscaping can help hide these structures in the yard.



The installation of these add-ons may require a permit and should be done by professionals.

POWTS Maintenance - Knowing Your System

Although a Private On-site Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS) may not have many moving parts, they still require periodic maintenance. In most cases maintenance is checking over the components and condition of the tank and pumping the tank when the solids level get to be about 1/3 of the tank capacity.

The State of Wisconsin requires that counties implement a three year maintenance program that involves pumping your septic tank every three years. Walworth County Sanitation Department sends out an “orange card” every three years to remind owners that it's time to pump their septic tank.

It is not recommended to use additives to help your POWTS move wastewater through it. Although you might get some short term relief to your problem, your system has some serious issues, such as plugged pipes and/or soil, which will not be resolved by a “magic powder.” In the long run they often make matters worse.