



Spring Maintenance Tips for Septic Systems

Many installers do not wish to take on the task of maintaining septic systems, but these systems all require maintenance and providing a maintenance service helps to get the cash flowing earlier in the spring than waiting for the install season to begin. Spring is a good time to do annual maintenance inspections to see if systems are functioning as they should.

The annual snow melt can saturate the ground, causing run-off to back-up into the septic tank if the lid/access opening is not above grade. A rising groundwater table can infiltrate the septic tank if the tank is compromised in some way.

Annual inspections and maintenance of septic systems help them to function better and last longer which is good for the industry and good for the client.

Here are some things to check:

- Does the tank need to be pumped out? Partner with a reputable pumper.
- Does the effluent filter need to be cleaned? A clogged effluent filter can stop the flow of effluent to the field, effectively killing the pump as the pump runs and runs, but the effluent doesn't go anywhere. If the effluent has nowhere to go, it can back up into the house.
- Is there an effluent filter present? If not, perhaps the homeowner might consider having one installed after market. A maintained effluent filter helps the soils component of the septic field last longer.
- Is the high-water alarm functioning? Is there a high-water alarm? Again, this is an inexpensive item that can be installed at any time in the life of a septic tank that provides good protection for the homeowner. Tip: the high-water alarm should not be wired to the same breaker as the pump.
- Is the pump working properly? Check the amperage and the breaker. Make sure the pump is pumping.
- Is the septic tank lid properly secured? Is it cracked or broken? Is it at grade? Exposing a buried tank lid and installing a riser and above-grade lid helps with annual maintenance and pumping.
- Is the soils component (field or mound) in good condition? Is there water ponding on it or leaching out at the toe? Is the ground spongy? Check this area for signs of failure.
- If there are monitoring ports, check them for ponding effluent.
- If there are cleanouts installed, run pressure through the lines to scour the lines and check the squirt height.

While these are not the only inspection and maintenance tasks you can perform on a system, they are a good start. Providing a maintenance program for your customers ensures that the system will be maintained, which means longer functionality and less likelihood of a system causing a public health or environmental problem. It provides installers with work in the off-season and ensures repairs take place when needed. Consider offering a maintenance service to your customers; it's just good business.

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Stay in-touch on industry news, learn about our latest training sessions, and check out photos of some of our events all on the MOWMA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ManitobaOnsite/>



Manitoba Onsite Wastewater
Management Association



March 28, 2019 cont.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting and Education Day will take place in Winnipeg on April 26, 2019.

This event is open to anyone in the onsite wastewater industry wishing to learn more about the science and technologies utilized to build this important infrastructure.

Members-in-good-standing are encouraged to attend, in order to take care of the business of the association, vote on any initiatives tabled and during the election process.

More information on the schedule of events will be forthcoming.

Please Save the Date!

For more information: admin@owsim.com or call 204.771.0455

Onsite Installer Certification Course

The Onsite Installer Certification Course is typically delivered twice a year at Red River College. Courses take place in May and September/October. There are no dates currently posted for this training, however for more information on upcoming courses please contact:

Red River Notre Dame Campus

For further information and registration or to put your name on a waiting list please contact:

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Request for Articles

The association is sourcing articles for publication in our WCOWMA family of newsletters, and our printed magazine. Newsletters are published monthly, and magazines are published twice per year. Both include information, news and events from each Western province.

Articles submitted may be on any topic relevant to our membership and stakeholder group, such as those related to wastewater, septage and the onsite wastewater industry. Article length should be between 200 to 500 words for the newsletter and 800 to 1,500 words for the magazine. In both cases the article should be research or case study based. Relevant pictures are welcome; a photo release may be required. Promotional articles or those that are heavily proprietorial are considered advertorial and are subject to advertising rates. These will be identified in the publications as advertorials.

Banner and feature advertising is also now available in our newsletter – please contact the association office more information.

WCOWMA newsletters and magazines are distributed to over 5000 onsite wastewater stakeholders across Western Canada.

Articles may be submitted to info@wcowma.com. The deadline for each newsletter is the 15th of each month.