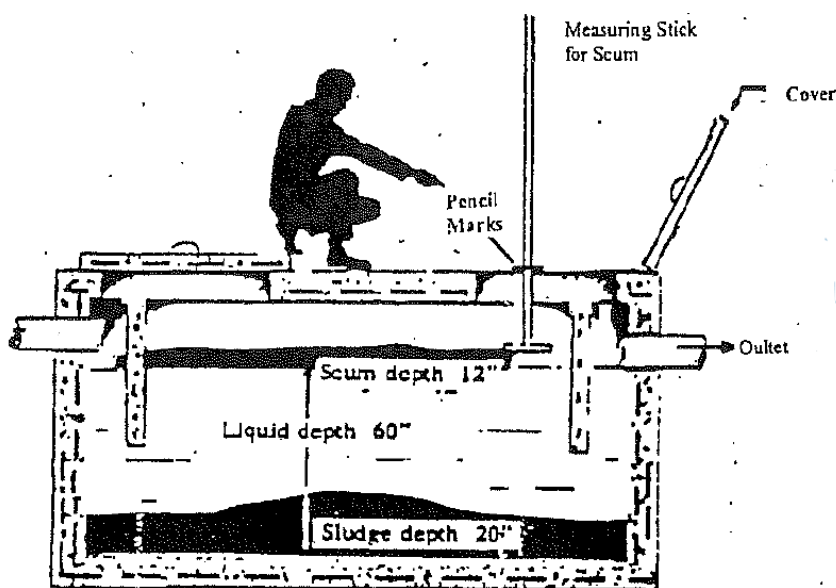


When does your aeration or septic tank need cleaning?

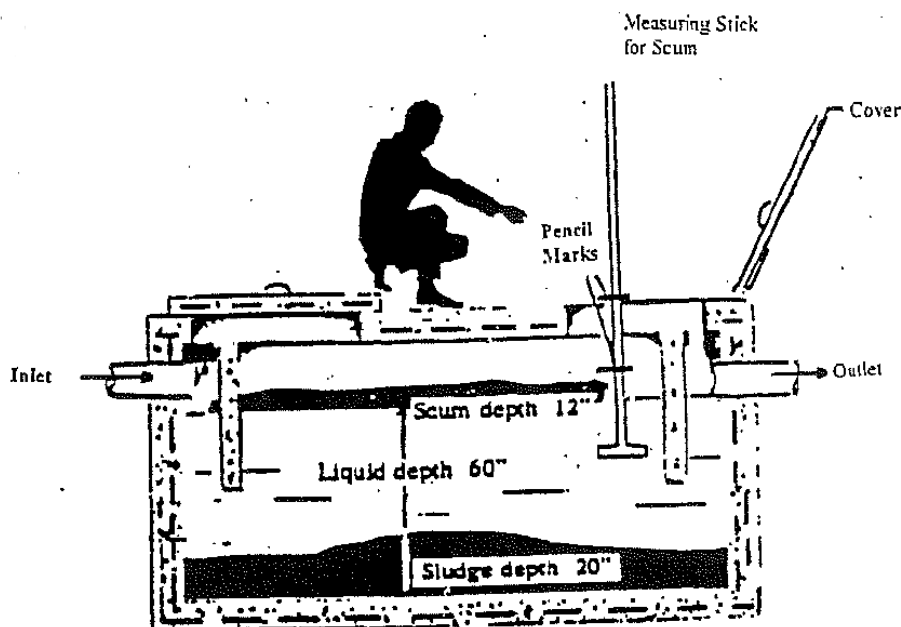
If your aeration or septic tank has been installed for two to three years, or longer, it probably needs cleaned. (Be sure the private sewage disposal contractor is licensed by the State of Illinois)

To find out if your tank is in need of cleaning, here's how to check:

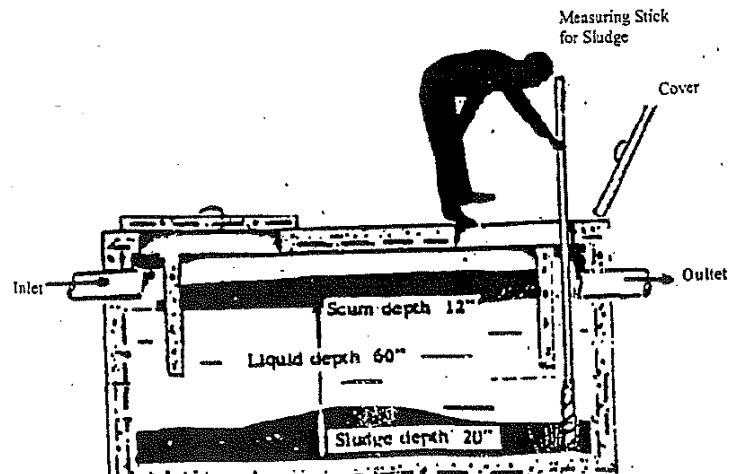
1. Measure the amount of scum in the tank: Attach a flat board, about a foot square (check size of the tank access cover first), to a long stick. Lower the bottom of the board to the top of the scum layer and mark the stick at ground level.



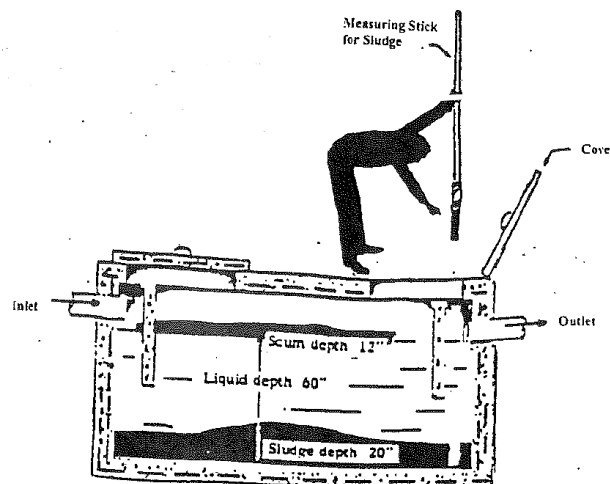
2. Now, force the board all the way through the scum layer and bring it back until you feel the bottom of the scum layer and mark the stick again. The distance between the two marks is the scum depth.



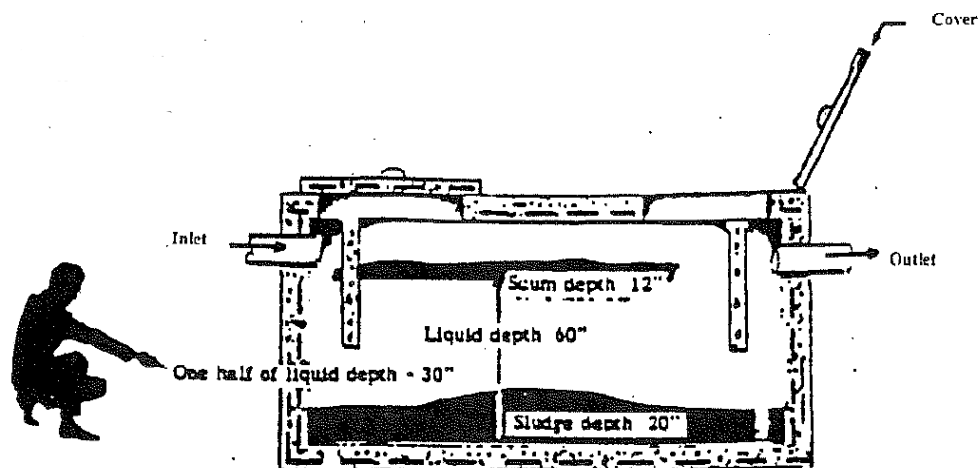
3. Measure the depth of the liquid, and the depth of sludge; Wrap a long stick with rough white toweling, and push it to the bottom of the tank:



4. Let it stand for 2 or 3 minutes, then pull it out again. Particles of sludge will cling to the toweling, and the sludge depth and liquid depth can be measured directly on the stick:



5. Total the scum and sludge measurements. If this figure is more than one-third the liquid depth, clean the tank.



Sample:

Scum Depth 12 inches

Sludge Depth 20 inches

= 32 inches

Liquid depth of the tank, 60 inches and $\frac{1}{3}$ of 60 inches is 20 inches, therefore this tank should be cleaned.

Definitions:

Sludge – the accumulated solids settled from sewage.

Influent – waste going into the septic tank from the house

Effluent – outflow from a tank or other treatment device or unit.

Scum- mass of sewage solids floating at the surface of the sewage in the tank.

For more information regarding care and maintenance of your septic tank or licensed septic tank cleansers, contact us at (217) 942-6961 Ext. 102.

Septic Tank Sizing:

Square Tank-

Length X Width X Depth = Cubic feet. Take cubic feet x 7.5= total gallons.

Measure depth from bottom of outlet pipe to floor of tank.

Round Tank –

$R^2 \times 3.14 \times 2.31 \times \text{Depth} = \text{CU}''$

To convert to cu' take cu'' x 1728 = cu'

Cu' x 7.5 = total gallons