

## 10 POINT CHECKLIST

- 1. SEPTIC TANK LID:** A measurement is taken from the ground to the lid. Buried septic tank lids result in extra digging charges, or lack of routine maintenance. You may consider installing a riser and lid to grade. Condition and size of the lid are taken.
- 2. LIQUID LEVEL:** The initial opening of the lid and visual observation of the liquid level in the tank immediately indicates potential problems.
- 3. SCUM BLANKET DEPTH:** A measurement of the floating material at the top of the septic tank. A scum layer which becomes too thick can be carried out into the drain field which may cause irreversible damage to the drain field. Scum layers exceeding 6 inches in depth indicate a need to increase pumping frequency
- 4. SLUDGE BLANKET:** A measurement of the solids at the bottom of the septic tank. Solids which enter the drain field may also cause irreversible damage to the drain field. Sludge levels greater than 10 inches in depth indicate a need to increase pumping frequency.
- 5. SEWAGE FLOW RUN BACK:** When water is flowing back from the drain field during pumping. This usually indicates a damaged drain line or disposal field. A more in depth assessment of the septic system should be performed by a licensed septic system inspector. Call 908-874-8785 for assistance.
- 6. WATER FLOW FROM THE HOUSE:** The operator will ask you to flush a toilet and confirm waste flow from the building into the tank. Slow or restricted flow may indicate a clog or blockage in the pipe, which may cause unsanitary backups. Jetting or snaking may be considered to correct the problem.
- 7. DRAIN FIELD:** The drain field is visually observed to see if sewage is on the surface. This is usually seen in conjunction with sewage run back into the septic tank. A more in depth assessment should be performed by a licensed septic inspector.
- 8. INLET BAFFLE:** The inlet baffle directs incoming sewage downward into the solids level in the tank. A broken or missing baffle needs repair immediately.
- 9. OUTLET BAFFLE:** The outlet baffle prevents the retained solids and the scum mat from exiting the tank and entering the drain field. A broken or missing baffle needs repair immediately.
- 10. EFFLUENT FILTER:** Filters have been proven to extend the life of a septic system by preventing sludge and particles from leaving the tank and contaminating the disposal field. Filters should be cleaned every 6-12 months. Additional charges will apply.