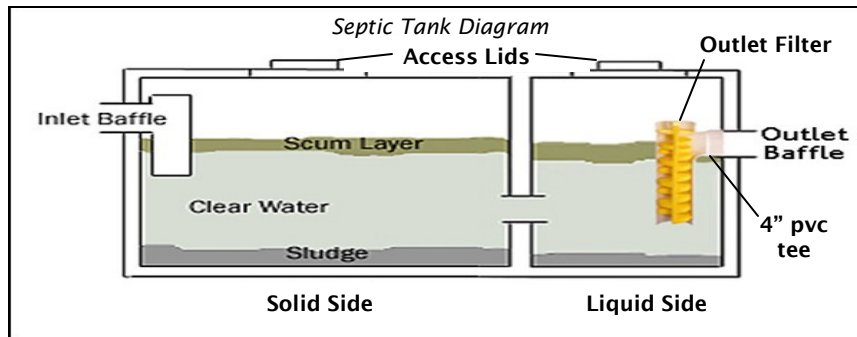


HOCKING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

350 St. Rte. 664 N. ~ Logan, Ohio 43138 ~ Phone 740-385-3030 ~ Fax 740-385-2252

FACT SHEET OUTLET FILTERS



What is An Outlet Filter?

A plastic filter located in the outlet end of the septic tank. Aerators have built-in filters and so do not use outlet filters. There are many brands and sizes but the most common are 4 inches in diameter that strain out suspended solids as small as 1/16 inch in size.

Why Does a Septic Tank Need an Outlet Filter?

Outlet filters are like an insurance policy for your leachfield. They keep suspended solids from leaving the tank and entering and clogging the leachfield. The cleaner the wastewater, the less the soil has to work to clean it up.

Do All Septic Tanks Have An Outlet Filter?

No. Outlet filters were not required until 2003 so older tanks most likely do not have a filter.

If My Tank Does Not Have a Filter Can One Be Added?

Yes. This is something the homeowner can do themselves or they can contact a Registered Hauler or Service Provider. The precast baffle may need to be knocked out first so a 4-inch pvc tee can be glued onto the pipe leading to the leachfield (see diagram above). The tee acts as a sleeve to hold the filter in place.

Make sure to place the tee and outlet filter directly under the access lid so the filter can be removed and cleaned periodically.

How Do I Clean the Filter?

The strainers on the filter will eventually clog up with debris.. If the accumulated debris is not removed, it will clog the filter so the wastewater cannot flow from the tank. This will cause a sewage backup. Owners can clean the filter themselves or contact a Registered Hauler or Service Provider to do it for them.

To clean the filter:

1. Remove the outlet lid on the tank. Use caution as there are toxic gases and pathogenic (disease-causing) organisms present.
2. Wear gloves and lift up on the handle of the filter gently removing it from the sleeve.
3. Carefully hose the filter off so the debris falls back into the tank. Wear protective eye-ware and be careful not to splash.
4. Gently slide the filter back into the sleeve. If your filter has an arrow on the handle, line it up with the direction of the outlet pipe.
5. Secure the tank lid. Wash and sanitize hands, gloves, and clothing.

How Often Should the Filter Be Cleaned?

Depends on how much it is used. Every system is different so it is best to check the filter every 6 months to a year till you figure out how often you can go between cleanings. On average, most filters should be cleaned annually.