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Tank Additives



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consumer radio briefs

University of Minnesota Extension Agricultural Engineer Roger Machmeier (mack-my-er) says be very careful before you use any additive in your septic tank.

Several years ago the Public Health Service tested about twelve-hundred products, many containing enzymes, which were on the market for use in septic tanks. The advertisers made extravagant claims for most of them but none proved of advantage in properly controlled tests.

Some additives actually do harm by plugging the drainfield. The additive causes the solids which have settled out in the septic tank to go back into suspension and flow out into the drainfield, causing it to plug up. Solids in the septic tank must be removed by a qualified septic tank pumper and must not be allowed out in the drainfield where they will do great damage.

Any company that claims to have an additive of benefit to a sewage treatment system should submit that product for testing to the U-S Public Health Service. Testimonials can be easily obtained, but careful research is necessary to evaluate product effectiveness.

So don't purchase and use septic tank additives unless you have sound proof that they will do what they claim. Additives may cost you far more money than the dollars you spend for the additive if you need to replace your entire drainfield trench system.

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