

Monterey Heights/South Passage Wastewater Update

Introduction to Your Wastewater System

Wastewater from your home goes into a septic tank where the solids settle out. The water flows into a pumping chamber where it is pumped to a pipe that leads to the community treatment system and is safely treated and disposed.

Monterey Heights and South Passage both have unique Community wastewater treatment systems. The systems, known as recirculating sand filters, clean your wastewater before it is released to the soil. These types of systems are popular throughout Minnesota and are gaining popularity nationwide as developments such as Monterey Heights and South Passage are being proposed.

Why is The Gray Panel on my Property?

The gray control panel on your property, as well as the green covers on top of the ground are a part of your wastewater treatment system. The gray box houses the controls that operate the pump. Service personnel may need to access the control panel and open up the green lids periodically for maintenance purposes. As landscaping is completed on your property, please **do not cover the lids** with mulch, dirt or other materials.

The Township anticipates pumping out of the green lids to remove the solids that have accumulated in the tank. The Township will determine when the tanks need to be pumped during their routine system checks, which are performed in September/October. The Township pays for one septic tank pumping event every three years. If you misuse the system, more frequent pumping may be necessary to protect the system which will be charged to the homeowner.

Have a Problem? – You May Not Know...

The control panel at your house has a telemetry system built in. A telemetry system is a micro-computer that calls to the Township's service provider in the event an alarm condition is occurring. If the pump or control panel component fails, the control panel's telemetry system will immediately call the service provider. The Homeowner will not be notified unless the alarm is not responded to within 24 hours. At that time an audible alarm will sound alerting the homeowner that there is a problem that needs to be addressed. If this occurs, please contact your service provider.

Who Should you Contact if there is a Problem?

The Township currently contracts with EcoCheck, Inc., a professional wastewater operations company to perform routine operations and maintenance of the system. If you think there is a problem with the system, contact EcoCheck at the following contact numbers:

Normal and After Business Hours – 651-255-5075

For other routine non-emergency questions regarding the system, contact the Credit River Town Hall at 952-440-5515

Tips for Homeowners

The two wastewater systems serving the development need to be professionally operated. Wastewater operators visit the sites several times a month to ensure the system is operating properly. To minimize service calls and to protect the users of the systems from potential back-ups, all users of the system need to know what can and cannot be discharged to the wastewater systems. Below are tips every user of the system should know:

- Chlorine-treated water from swimming pools and hot-tubs shall **not** be put into the system.
- No paints, solvents, antifreeze or chemicals shall be discharged to the wastewater system. Dispose of all solvents, paints, antifreeze, and chemicals through local recycling and hazardous waste channels.
- Minimize the amount of hair, grease and food materials that go down your drains.
- Use minimal amounts of mild cleaners and only use as often as needed.
- Garbage disposals need to be carefully used with septic systems. Vegetable, meat, fat, oil, and other food products add large amounts of sludge. A result is more frequent tank cleaning. These materials are difficult for bacteria in the septic tank to break down.
- Hazardous waste products shall **not** be put into the system. This includes even small amounts of latex paint rinsed off rollers or brushes. Dispose of all solvents, paints and chemicals through local recycling and hazardous waste channels. Consult local solid waste officials for proper methods. These materials kill valuable bacteria in the system.
- Unwanted medications shall **not** be flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain. They will kill beneficial bacteria in the septic tank.
- Do **not** flush facial tissue, paper towels, cigarette butts, disposable diapers or personal hygiene products.
- Iron filters and water softeners should be placed on minimum regeneration rates. Excessive regeneration can cause problems with the system.

