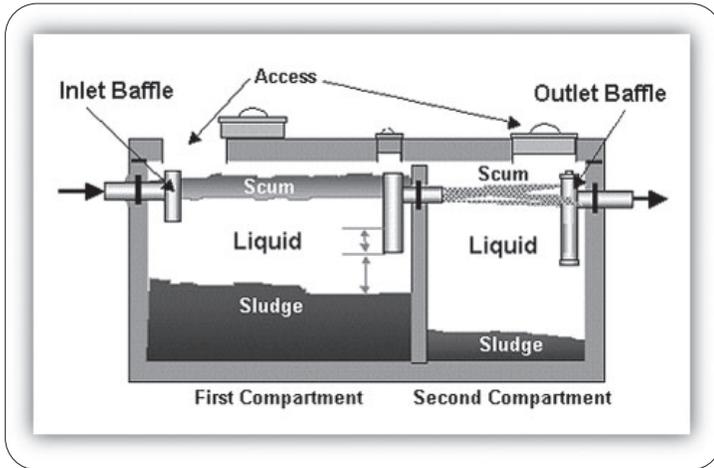




FLOOD FACTS: Septic System After Flood



If your septic system is flooded, learn how to restore it after floodwaters drain away.



Secure the septic tank cover and ensure inspection ports are not blocked/damaged. This can prevent a deadly mishap if someone falls into the septic tank.



Do not use the sewage system (e.g. flushing toilets, draining water from sinks, bathtubs, etc.) until water levels in soil absorption field are lower than water levels around your house.

Have your septic tank professionally inspected/ serviced for damage before restarting. Only trained specialists should clean or repair septic tanks (since they contain dangerous gases):

- During floods, septic tanks and pump chambers can fill with silt and debris
- If soil absorption field is clogged with silt, a new system may have to be installed

If sewage has backed up into your home, clean the area with a detergent and disinfectant:

- Use a chlorine solution of 5,000 parts per million of household non-scented bleach (mix 10 parts of water with one part of bleach)
- Fill bucket with water, then add bleach to prevent chemical splashes. Allow at least 10 minutes for mixture to combine. Wash surfaces and let air dry (no need to rinse)
- Wear protective equipment like gloves, protective eyewear, face mask and rubber boots. Wash hands frequently with soap and water

Pump the septic system as soon as possible after the flood (never while soil is wet or under water, as it could cause damage). Pump both the tank and lift station to remove any silt/debris

Do not drive vehicles or heavy equipment over the septic system during cleanup or restoration. Doing so will compact the soil and damage the septic system

Before restoring power, check all electrical connections for damage (especially to pumps)

Check vegetation over your septic tank and soil absorption field. Repair erosion damage and sod/reseed areas as needed to provide turf grass cover

Remember: Sewage backups may occur when water tables are high or there is a flood risk.

For more information, call the HKPR District Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577 ext. 5006