



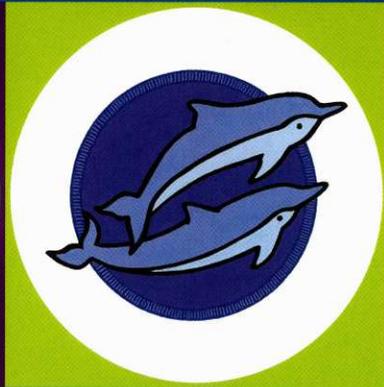
**ONSITE**  
WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT  
SYSTEMS  
CITY OF MALIBU



**THREE REASONS TO CARE**



**YOUR  
PROPERTY**



**YOUR  
ENVIRONMENT**



**YOUR  
GUESTS**

OPERATION  MAINTENANCE  PERMITTING  CONSERVATION

# PROPER OPERATION



The Top Three Reasons Why the Care and Feeding of your Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (aka septic system) is so Important

**YOU WILL PROTECT THE VALUE OF YOUR PROPERTY.**

**YOU WILL HELP PROTECT THE OCEAN AND THE ENVIRONMENT.**

**YOU WILL PREVENT GUESTS FROM WHISPERING ABOUT  
“THAT SMELL.”**

To help ensure proper operation and longevity of your onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS), here are four simple rules to follow:

1. Have your system regularly inspected. Pump your tank as necessary.
2. Minimize the disposal of garbage/solids down the drain.
3. Don't dispose of household hazardous wastes in sinks or toilets.
4. Maintain all records for your system.

## INSPECTION/PUMPING

- Inspect every 2-5 years; 2 years for advanced systems and five years for residences with conventional systems.
- On average, systems need to be pumped every 3-5 years (or longer) depending on the size of the tank and type/quantity of waste it handles.
- Maintain records of work done on your systems. This will be the best guide to determine when maintenance is needed and if there is a problem.



# PROPER MAINTENANCE



## MINIMIZE GARBAGE/SOLIDS GOING INTO THE SYSTEM

- ☑ Loading a system with organic matter is one of the quickest ways to clog up your system.
- ☑ Minimize the use of a garbage disposal.
- ☑ Use a drain catch and put food waste in the garbage.
- ☑ Never dispose of solids such as kitty litter, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, diapers, cigarettes, etc. in the toilet or sink.

## PROPERLY DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- ☑ Never dispose of household chemicals into your system.
- ☑ Collect all hazardous waste in your home and bring them to a free Collection Event.
- ☑ Call 888-CLEAN-LA for the next event in the region.



## KEEP ORGANIC MATTER OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM BY THROWING IT IN THE TRASH.



## MAINTAIN ALL OWTS RECORDS

- ☑ Keep track of all pumping records. Significant changes in the duration between pump outs could be a sign of a problem.
- ☑ Know where your tank/system is located. Avoid driving over, placing heavy equipment or doing construction over those areas.



# PROPER PERMITTING



All systems in the City need to have proper permitting to ensure they comply with building standards and environmental protection. Two agencies oversee the permitting of OWTS in the City: the City's Environmental and Building Safety Division and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Los Angeles Region (RWQCB).

## CITY PERMIT

As of January 1, 2003, all newly constructed systems must obtain an Operating Permit in addition to an Installation Permit. The Operating Permits must be renewed periodically depending on the type of system and occupancy. In addition, as of January 1, 2004 all existing systems serving commercial and multi-family structures are required to obtain Operating Permits.

**RENEWING OPERATING PERMITS:** The following table lists the duration of Operating Permits depending on the occupancy and type of system.

<b>OCCUPANCY</b>	<b>SYSTEM TYPE</b>	<b>RENEWAL PERIOD</b>
Single Family Residence	Conventional System	5 years or point of sale
Single Family Residence	Alternative System	3 years or point of sale
Commercial/Multifamily	Any System	2 years

*For additional information regarding City permits, call (310) 456-2489*

## STATE PERMIT

The State also requires certain systems, which are viewed to have a higher potential of impacting water quality, to obtain permits called Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). These permits are issued by the RWQCB, which has the responsibility of protecting water quality Statewide.

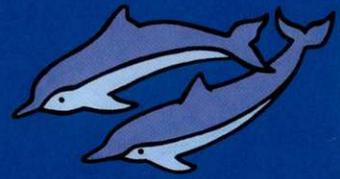
WDRs are required for systems having the following criteria:

**Systems generating over 20,000 gallons of waste per day**

**Systems serving multi-family facilities or residential development of two or more homes**

**Systems serving commercial facilities that generate over 2,000 gallons of waste per day**

*For more information on State permits, call (213) 576-6600.*



## CONSERVATION

### **EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR SYSTEM BY USING WATER EFFICIENTLY**

The more water a household conserves, the less water enters the OWTS. Efficient water use can improve the operation of the system, help protect the environment and increase the lifespan of your system.

Here are some tips to help conserve water and extend the life of your system:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Install high-efficiency showerheads.   | 5. Make sure all faucets are completely turned off when not in use.                         |
| 2. Turn off faucets while shaving or brushing your teeth.   | 6. Maintain your plumbing to eliminate leaks  |
| 3. Run the washing machine and/or dishwasher only when they are full.   | 7. Install aerators in the faucets in your kitchen and bathroom.                            |
| 4. Do not use toilets or sinks for disposing of solids that can go in the trash. Minimize the use of garbage disposals. | 8. Replace old dishwashers, toilets, and washing machines with new, high efficiency models. |

The above information is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For more information on water conservation, please visit [www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/index.htm) or [www.BeWaterWise.com](http://www.BeWaterWise.com).

*Funding for this project has been provided in part through a contract with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) pursuant to the Costa-Machado Water Act of 2000 (Proposition 13) and any amendments thereto for the implementation of California's Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the SWRCB, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use." (Gov. Code 7550, 40 CFR 31.20)*



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