

How to Clean Your Septic Outlet Filter

The purpose of a septic tank is to slow down your wastewater and allow it to settle into layers (a scum of fats/oils/greases on top, water in the middle, and a layer of solids at the bottom called sludge). Only the middle layer of water is meant to exit your tank and proceed to your drainfield where it will be soaked into, and filtered by, the soil. This design, in addition to regularly pumping your tank, protects your drainfield from particles that could clog the soil over time and lead to permanent failure. Some septic tanks also have a filter in the outlet T-baffle to provide an extra layer of protection, however they are only effective if cleaned regularly. To prevent sewage backups into your home and protect your drainfield, remove and clean the tank's filter every 6 months, as shown below. An easy way to remember is to clean around the spring and fall equinoxes.

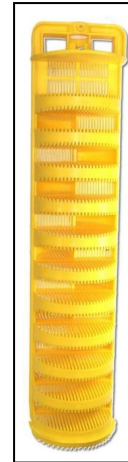
Dirty Filter



Remove the filter from the outlet T-baffle sleeve & wash over the inlet riser.



Clean Filter



Replace filter into the T baffle with the arrow pointing out.



Geauga Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.