



November 24, 2017

Winter Is Here – Maintenance Tips To Help Prepare For Cold Weather Impacts On Onsite Wastewater Systems

SOWMA

The next couple months are the perfect time to begin fall maintenance on onsite wastewater systems to ensure they function well over the cold winter months. Maintenance is the key to the sustainability and longevity of septic systems. Some simple activities can ensure your customer's systems are functioning as intended.

Here are some recommended maintenance tips:

- Winter winds can often remove insulating snow cover from the treatment field area. If the septic system is located in an open area, unprotected by the wind, you might want to discuss installing a snow fence with your customer. If a snow fence is placed around the soil treatment area, you could further insulate the area with a layer of mulch or straw and the snow fence would protect it from blowing away as well as trapping snow within the fence boundary.
- A running toilet or tap can cause a slow trickle into the septic tank. Any water slowly trickling into the tank or treatment field is at risk of freezing. Fixtures that are not functioning properly or are leaking should be replaced.
- Don't add antifreeze or other additives to the system.
- Homeowners who go on vacation for long periods over the winter months may come back to find a frozen system. Advise your customers that if they are going to be gone for more than a couple of days, have whoever is watching the house run some water through the system. For extended absences over the cold months, consider having the tank pumped.
- Advise your customers to keep all vehicles (including ATV's and snowmobiles) and high-traffic people or animal activities off the soil treatment area. This should be done all year, but is especially critical in winter months.
- Make sure all risers, monitoring ports and manways have tight covers. Insulating lids is helpful. Unsecured lids are a danger to children.
- If any seeping or ponding is evident should be investigated immediately.

Artificial Sweeteners in Groundwater Indicate Contamination from Septic Systems

WATER CANADA

Researchers from the University of Waterloo have found evidence that artificial sweeteners are making their way into rural groundwater through septic system wastewater.

The study describes how the researchers tested private, rural groundwater wells in the Nottawasaga River Watershed in Ontario for four artificial sweeteners as a way to detect groundwater impacted by human wastewater being released by septic systems in the area.

Artificial sweeteners are ideal human wastewater tracers as they exit the human body essentially unchanged and are not completely removed by most wastewater treatment processes. Human wastewater contains relatively high concentrations of artificial sweeteners.

Read the whole article here: <https://www.watercanada.net/artificial-sweeteners-from-septic-systems-contaminate-groundwater/>

Find us on Facebook

SOWMA

Stay in-touch on industry news, learn about our latest training sessions, and check out photos of some of our events all on the SOWMA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SaskatchewanOnsiteWastewaterManagementAssociation/>

Onsite Wastewater Practitioner Training

SOWMA

The next available training session dates are:

Days 1 – 3 – January 30, 31 & Feb 1, 2018 – North Battleford, SK

Days 4 – 7 – February 26, 27, 28 & March 1 2018 – North Battleford, SK

Register online or contact the association office toll free at 855-872-2650 for more information.

Member Benefits: Office Supplies Savings

SOWMA

Every company has an office to provide infrastructure to their business and every office uses business supplies. Through a partnership with Staples Advantage/Corporate Express, SOWMA members may take advantage of savings of 60% or more on stationery and shop supplies. Staples Advantage/Corporate Express delivers your order right to your door, saving you time. Because options are a good thing, members can also choose to take advantage of a partnership with Grand & Toy Office Max. This program offers discounted office supplies, free delivery, and Max Bucks. Members can save up to 65% on stationery and office supplies. Even if your small office uses only \$1000/year in supplies, a savings of 60% more than pays for your annual association membership fees.

More information is available in your membership package, or by contacting our office.

Upcoming Industry Events

You can keep up-to-date on industry events on our events page! The SOWMA events page has recently been updated and features a calendar configuration, making it easier than ever to see what industry events are just around the corner.

Have an industry event you'd like to see posted? Feel free to contact us!

WWETT Show 2018

Feb 21-24, 2018

Indianapolis, IN

UN World Water Day

March 22, 2018

2018 SWWA Conference & Trade Show

November 7 – 9, 2018

Saskatoon, SK

SOWMA Newsletter

SOWMA

Interested in having the SOWMA newsletter delivered right to your inbox? No longer wish to get our faxes?

Contact our office today and we can update our records.