What Happens During a Septic Tank Inspection?

A Homeowner's Guide for Tehachapi and Surrounding Areas

If your home has a septic system, you may wonder what actually happens during a septic inspection. Whether you're maintaining your home, checking on an older system or preparing for a real estate transaction, understanding the inspection process can help you know what to expect.

For homeowners in Tehachapi, Bear Valley Springs, Stallion Springs and surrounding communities, a septic inspection is an important part of understanding the condition of your system.

LOCATING AND ACCESSING THE SEPTIC TANK

The first step is locating the septic tank and identifying its access points. Depending on the property, tank lids may be visible at ground level or buried beneath soil. The location and accessibility of the tank can affect how long the inspection takes. Keeping track of your tank's location and any available septic system records can make future inspections and maintenance easier.

CHECKING THE TANK'S CONDITION

During an inspection, a technician evaluates the condition of the septic tank and looks for visible signs of damage or deterioration. This may include checking for:

- Cracks or structural damage
- Signs of leaks
- Unusual liquid levels
- Damaged or missing components
- Conditions that may affect proper operation

The type and depth of inspection depend on the system and the purpose of the visit.

INSPECTING BAFFLES AND FILTERS

Baffles and effluent filters help keep solids from moving into the drainfield. When these components are damaged, missing or clogged, solids can escape the tank and affect the rest of the system. Checking their condition is an important part of evaluating how well a septic system is functioning.

EVALUATING THE DRAINFIELD

The drainfield is where wastewater leaving the septic tank is dispersed into the soil for further treatment. A technician may look for signs that the drainfield is experiencing problems, such as:

- Unusually wet areas
- Standing water
- Sewage odors
- Unusual surface conditions

The drainfield is underground, so a visual inspection cannot reveal every possible issue. Additional testing or evaluation may be needed if concerns are identified.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR INSPECTION RESULTS

After the inspection, the findings help determine whether the system appears to be functioning properly or whether further attention may be necessary. If problems are identified, the next steps may include maintenance, repairs or additional evaluation. *For real estate transactions, a septic certification reflects the system's condition on the date it was inspected. It is not a guarantee that the system will remain problem-free indefinitely.*

WHEN SHOULD YOU SCHEDULE A SEPTIC INSPECTION?

A septic inspection may be useful when:

- You haven't had your system professionally evaluated in a while.
- You are experiencing changes in system performance.
- You are buying or selling a property.
- You are planning repairs or improvements.
- You want to better understand the condition of an older septic system.

The right inspection schedule depends on the system, its age, its use and any local requirements.

SEPTIC INSPECTIONS IN TEHACHAPI AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Every property and septic system is different. Understanding your system's condition can help you make informed decisions about maintenance, repairs and future needs.

Sim Sanitation provides septic inspections and certifications, along with septic pumping, repairs, installation and other septic services throughout Kern and parts of Los Angeles County.

If you have questions about your septic system or need to schedule an inspection, contact Sim Sanitation.

Call (661) 823-8442 or visit simsanitation.com to learn more.