



Operation and Maintenance of Your Pressure Distribution System

- A. Plant grass over the drainfield area, do not build over reserve area or cover with an impervious substance such as plastic or asphalt. There should always be a minimum of six inches of topsoil over the drainfield area.
- B. Prevent vehicular and/or livestock traffic over the drainfield site and reserve area.
- C. The pump chamber should be inspected every six months to check the condition and proper performance of the floats, pump or siphon, screen and alarms.
 - 1. Check the alarm box to ensure it is operating properly. If not, it may need to be replaced. Make sure the pump test button operates when pressed. The alarm switch should always be in the ON position. If the alarm goes off, contact a certified installer or designer to determine the problem.
 - 2. Electrical components and conduits should be checked for corrosion.
 - 3. Buildup of sludge in the chamber should be monitored and pumped if necessary.
 - 4. The pump screen should be rinsed off back into the tank at this time.
 - 5. Check the pump chamber for signs of leaking around the risers, inlet and outlet. If leaking is occurring, you will need to regrout the affected area.
- D. Systems installed with a pump timer, cycle counter, and/or elapsed time meter should be checked periodically to ensure that doses are being delivered at the design volume and frequency; the pump controls and throttling valve should be adjusted accordingly. This should be done by a certified installer or designer who has a copy of the plans/specifications or as-built.

- E. Drainfield maintenance and repairs can be facilitated by accurate and readily accessible as-built plans of the system. Some systems have cleanouts brought to the surface that make flushing the lines very easy. The burial of a ferrous metal plate near the terminal end of each lateral will allow plastic pipe to be readily located with the use of a metal detector if flushing becomes necessary. Check monitoring ports for ponding. If ponding is occurring, contact a certified designer to determine the cause.

- F. The septic tank should be inspected annually for accumulated sludge and scum levels and pumped when necessary. If an effluent screen is installed at the outlet of the tank, it should be rinsed off back into the tank at this time. Sometimes an effluent screen will need to be rinsed more frequently, depending on water usage and type of effluent. Check the baffles at this time to ensure that they are intact.