



## **Robyn's Septic Service** Information Series

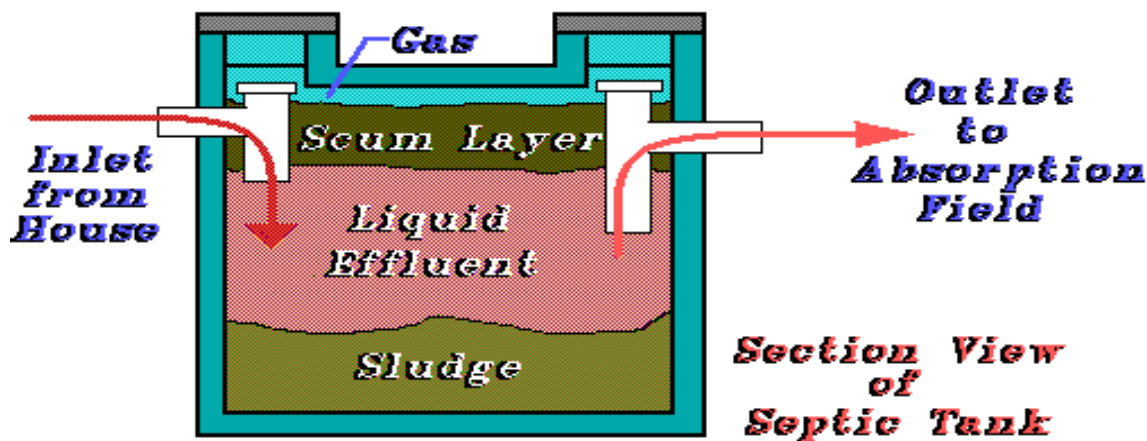
### **Outlet Baffle Failures and Pipe / Distribution Box Concerns**

Back ups in the home can be a stressful and costly condition. Knowing what the root cause of the backup is can save time and money. (See our information sheet on Backups for more information.)

This information sheet will deal directly with baffle and outlet pipe failures and the diagnosis and associated repair procedures.

There are several locations within an onsite system where blockages can occur. The most difficult to accurately diagnose is a blockage at the outlet of the tank, the outlet pipe and the Distribution box.

The following diagram shows a typical septic tank.



If the operating level is higher than the inlet pipe or the operating level increases when a volume of water is introduced to the tank a blockage or restriction is usually the issue. There may be concerns in the absorption system as well.

If the outlet end of the tank does not have a manhole size access cover it is necessary to excavate the outlet end of the tank to diagnose a baffle/ pipe concern.

Once we have excavated the tank and distribution box we can then see what concerns we have and what corrections or repairs are necessary

## **Diagnosis and Conditions**

After excavation the exposed pipe will give the technician an accurate starting point for a full assessment of the concern.

Photo #1 shows an outlet pipe that has corroded to the point that there was virtually no flow from the septic tank

Photo # 2 shows an outlet pipe at the tank that is blocked and the outlet baffle is missing



Photo #3 shows lateral pipes that have corroded completely shut

Photo #4 shows typical precast outlet baffle failure



Typically the distribution box has failed as well due to age and corrosion

## Repair Procedures

Typical repair procedures range from basic pipe cleaning and water jetting to replacement of the outlet baffle, outlet pipe, distribution box and lateral lines

Photo # 1 shows a typical baffle replacement

Photo # 2 shows a typical distribution box and short lateral replacement



All repairs are made with current code materials and procedures.

Many times pipe failure and blockages are mis-diagnosed as absorption system failures. Confirmation of an outlet pipe concern usually cannot be confirmed without excavation of the pipe and distribution box.

Do not accept a diagnosis of absorption field failure without a thorough investigation of the system and its components.

If you have more questions or would like to schedule a visit to diagnose your systems concerns and condition

Please call us at 410-838-9845

Thanks for choosing **Robyns Septic Service.**