

Preventive maintenance suggestions are key to an efficient septic system

Too many people take for granted the smooth functioning of their septic systems — with severe consequences. Unfortunately, the 20 million homeowners with septic systems often don't think about them until it's too late, not realizing that messy back-up problems can be prevented with proper maintenance.

To maintain your septic system properly, it is important to understand how it works. There are two types of septic systems: Septic tanks and cesspools. In both, waste flows from the house through an underground sewage line (inlet pipe) into a collection area.

In a septic tank, which is a closed system, the collection area is sealed. In a cesspool, which is an open system, the

collection area is a large covered hole under the ground.

Your septic system requires constant bacterial action to function properly. Aerobic bacteria (in a septic tank) and aerobic bacteria (in a cesspool) feed on solid and liquid waste matter turning solids into liquids through digestive action. These liquids are then dispersed into the surrounding soil.

Problems such as back-up begin when bacteria in the septic system are weakened or killed due to improper maintenance, accumulation of oils, or grease or excessive use of harsh household chemicals.

People tend to wait until a problem occurs to try to fix it, instead of thinking

about preventing back-ups from happening in the first place.

In a back-up, inlet and outlet pipes become clogged, strong odors form and sewage can back up into the home. The only solution to this emergency is a costly, messy pumping out of the entire system.

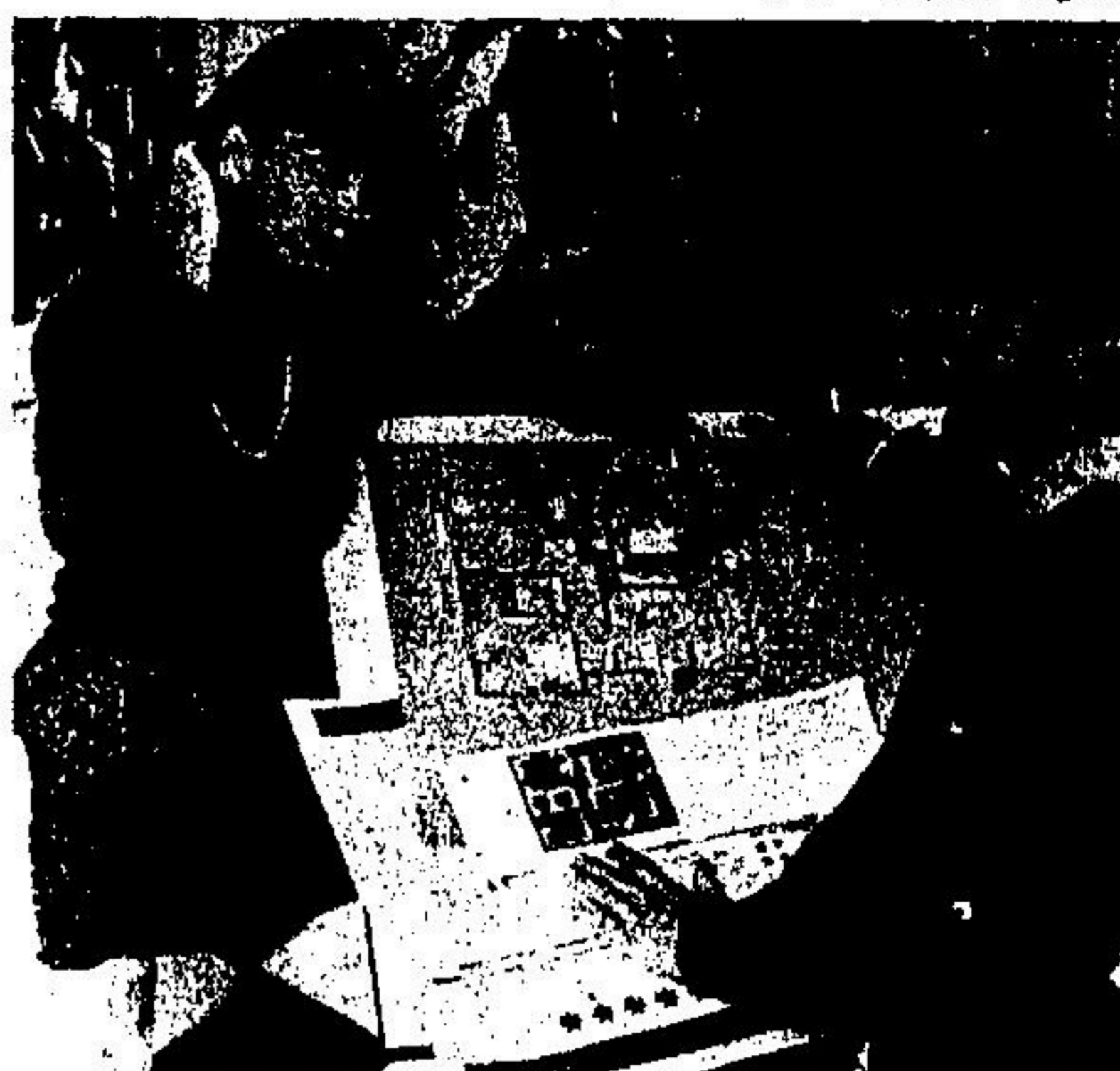
Effective approach to back-ups

Many homeowners are not aware that there is a product which can help prevent back-ups. Each application of RID-X[®], a septic system bacteria additive manufactured by The d-CON Company, which should be flushed down the toilet once monthly, adds hundreds of millions of the beneficial bacteria needed by the system to digest waste, to help prevent trouble from starting and to help keep the septic tank or cesspool operating at full efficiency. RID-X is an effective and safe way to maintain your septic system.

In addition to a regular septic maintenance program, it is important that homeowners be aware of things that are harmful to septic systems — disposable diapers, coffee grounds, grease, bleach and any items made of plastic should never go down the drain. Remember, prevention is the key here.

Free booklet available

For more information, a consumer booklet, "The Worry-Free Way to Care For Septic Tanks and Cesspools" is available free by writing RID-X Brochure Offer, The d-CON Company, Inc., Dept. MBM, 225 Summit Avenue, Montvale, NJ 07645.



CREATE WITH EASE — Designing plans for a new home or modifying an old one can be easier and more enjoyable with the use of Home Designer[™], the do-it-yourself floorplanning system from Plan-A-Flex[®]. Containing over 500 reusable symbols and a flexible layout sheet, the kit enables the preview of construction ideas and furniture arrangement. Useful for planning construction of up to 6,500 square feet, the Home Designer kit can help avoid costly mistakes.



Having the right tools is the first step to taming the terrifying task of wallpapering

Wallpapering can be a forbidding-looking job. However, hanging wallpaper is one of the first do-it-yourself (DIY) tasks homeowners and apartment dwellers tackle after they have mastered painting and caulking.

Getting over the "knowledge barrier" is the biggest step. Wallpapering can be easy if:

- You have some good instructions;
- You have the right tools available;
- You plan ahead and do the job properly.

The friendly folks at Red Devil, Inc., have just introduced two new all-inclusive consumer Wallcovering Kits designed to meet all three of the above needs. Two blister-packed kits are available, No. 4907 for wallpaper and No. 4908 for vinyl wallcovering materials.

The kits include the basic supply of tools needed to tackle the job: A paste brush, a seam roller, a high-quality razor knife and a smoothing brush.

Even better, Red Devil has included instructions on the back of the card, a

tradition with this DIY-oriented manufacturer. These step-by-step instructions break wallpapering down into its simplest elements.

Among the wallpapering tips offered by the Red Devil pros:

- **Prepare the wall properly.** It pays to take the time to clean the walls thoroughly and repair all cracks before papering. Industrial-strength cleaners like TSP/90[®] and super lightweight spacklings like ONETIME[®], both available from Red Devil, help speed the job.

- **Apply paste from the center outward** on wallpapers requiring paste, using the brush in the kit.

- **Use your smoothing brush and seam roller.** Using the smoothing brush will ensure proper adhesion all around; smoothing brushes are different for regular and vinyl wallcoverings. Then roll the seams carefully and remove extra paste squeezed out.

- **Trim like the pros.** The smart DIYer will allow about 2" of extra paper at the top and bottom of each strip. Then, a broad taping knife or a trim guard with a steel blade (like Red Devil's new All-Purpose Trim Guard No. 4047) can be used to press the wallcovering tightly into the baseboard or corner.

Using a very sharp knife with a fresh blade to trim off excess paper prevents tearing and ensures a straight, professional-looking edge.

Red Devil's new Wallcovering Kits spell all this information out clearly with "user friendly" instructions. They're available at your painting and decorating retailer.



EVEN NOVICE DO-IT-YOURSELFERS will find the task of wallpapering simplified — and the professional look of a room like this within their abilities — with the help of the wide range of handy tools available from Red Devil, Inc. Inset, above, Red Devil's Wallpaper Hanging Kit, which includes the basic tools needed to tackle the job.

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