



Luna Environmental
AEROBIC SEPTIC CARE

FOR AEROBIC SEPTIC OWNERS

Simple **Septic** Guide

Everything you need to understand, maintain, and troubleshoot your aerobic system — in plain English.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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What Is an Aerobic Septic System?

What you need to know, and nothing that you don't



02

How to Diagnose Problems (Without a Professional)

How to troubleshoot when something's not right



03

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What kind, how much, how often



04

Awesome Video Explanations

Short videos worth watching, by topic





01 UNDERSTAND YOUR SYSTEM

What Is an Aerobic Septic System?

Think of your aerobic septic system as a small water treatment facility buried in your yard! Everything that goes down your drains ends up here, gets cleaned, and comes back out as clean water for your lawn through sprinklers or drip lines underground.

Why do we call it **“aerobic”**? It pumps oxygen into the tank using an **air compressor** on the outside of the system, or an **aerator** on the inside — feeding aerobic bacteria that break down waste quickly & more effectively than an old-style tank.

Here's the catch: aerobic systems have more moving parts & pieces than a conventional septic system. That means it requires some **regular upkeep** to make sure things are running smoothly.

AEROBIC VS. CONVENTIONAL

CONV. The old-school kind — no air, slower cleaning, and the water just soaks into the soil underground. The soil does the cleaning.

AERO. What you've got — uses air to speed up wastewater treatment, disinfects with chlorine/filters, then sprays through sprinklers or drips underground through drip lines. Best when soil conditions don't work well for cleaning wastewater on their own.

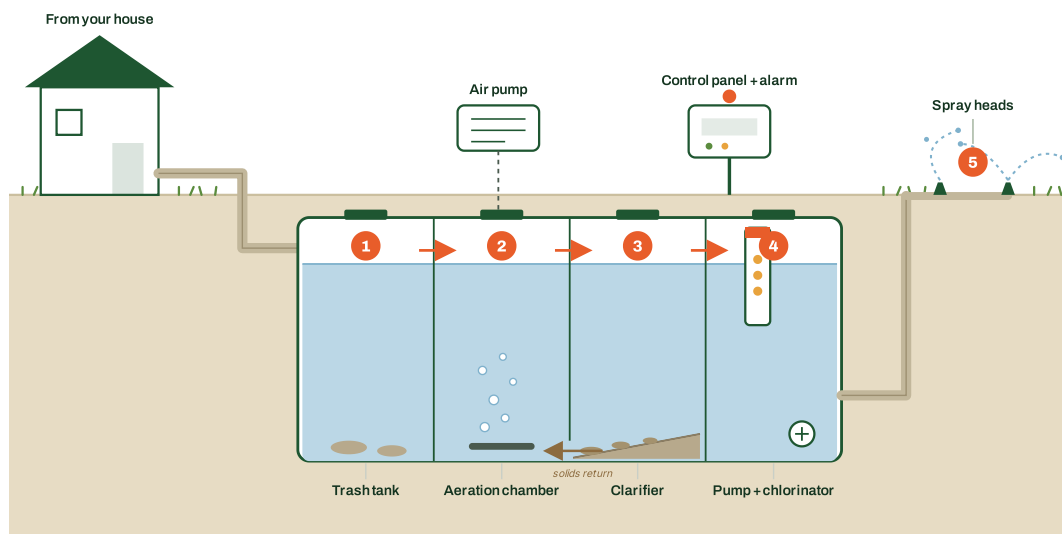


Fig. 1 — A typical aerobic septic system. Configurations vary; yours may combine chambers, use UV instead of chlorine, or use drip dispersal.

1

Pretreatment

Waste enters the trash tank; heavy solids settle out.

2

Aeration

The air pump feeds oxygen to bacteria that digest the waste.

3

Clarification

Remaining solids settle in the clarifier; clearer water rises.

4

Disinfection

Chlorine kills any remaining pathogens in the water.

5

Dispersal

A pump sends the clean water out through your spray heads.



WATCH & LEARN

What Is an Aerobic Septic System?

Check out this video to see more · tap to watch

Watch Video →



02 TROUBLESHOOTING

When Something's Not Right

Your system tells you when it needs attention — here's how to read the signs and know what to do.



YELLOW ALARM · AIR COMPRESSOR PROBLEM

This is not a septic back-up emergency, but it does need to be diagnosed immediately. Your system can only go a short time with an air problem before big & expensive problems start to emerge.



[Watch: yellow light explained →](#)



RED ALARM · HIGH WATER LEVELS

This needs to be diagnosed immediately. A red alarm means wastewater is building up & not being distributed. This leads to backups, broken pumps, clogged filters, and more.



[Watch: red alarm explained →](#)

IF YOU NOTICE...	IT LIKELY MEANS...	WHAT TO DO
 Buzzing red alarm light	High water levels Often from using too much water too quickly, or... • clogged filters • broken floats • broken pump / electrical failures • saturated drain field • broken sprinklers	SAFE TO DO Confirm you haven't "hydro-overloaded" it — used too much water too fast. SAFE TO DO After heavy rain, wait a few hours without using water to see if it clears. NEEDS A PRO With so many possible causes, proper diagnosis needs a certified technician.
 Air pump is silent / Yellow buzzing alarm light	1 The breaker has tripped and needs to be reset 2 Compressor is sitting on the air tube, pinching it 3 The air compressor needs to be rebuilt or replaced	SAFE TO DO Reset the breaker. SAFE TO DO Rebuild the air compressor. NEEDS A PRO Air compressor replacement. Watch a rebuild
 Sewage smells around your system	1 System isn't aerating properly, creating septic smells 2 New medications are being used in the home 3 Overdue pump-out — solids building up in the pump tank	SAFE TO DO Listen for a hum from your aerator / air compressor to confirm it's running. NEEDS A PRO Check the solid levels to determine if a pump-out is needed. Watch how to check
 Wet or soggy spray area	1 Broken sprinkler — water is leaking out and saturating the ground 2 System is spraying too often, saturating the ground	SAFE TO DO Check raised sprinklers for cracks. SAFE TO DO Check the spray timer to make sure it isn't overspraying.
 Slow drains or a backup	1 Pipe blockage (flushed wipes, grease, etc.) 2 Overdue pump-out 3 Failed pump	NEEDS A PRO A slow drain or backup in the house isn't safe to diagnose yourself — this one needs a professional.



03 CHLORINE & DISINFECTION

All About Chlorine

Chlorine is the **final step** before your system sprays treated water across your yard. It disinfects the wastewater so it's safe to be around — for your family, your pets, and your neighbors.

In Texas, any system that sprays water to the surface is **required** to chlorinate. It isn't optional.

✓ Why it's required

Spray systems put treated water where people and pets can touch it, so the state (TCEQ) requires disinfection. Without chlorine, you'd be spraying untreated wastewater — and the bacteria in it — across your yard.

HOW YOUR SYSTEM ADDS CHLORINE



Tablet chlorinator

BETWEEN CLARIFIER & PUMP TANK

Solid "hockey-puck" tablets sit in a tube the water flows over on its way through — and that contact does the disinfecting.

USE

Calcium hypochlorite tablets

NSF Std 60 — certified for wastewater



Liquid (drip) chlorinator

DRIPS INTO THE PUMP TANK

Drips liquid chlorine into the final stage before spraying. Lower upkeep — just refill it when it runs low.

USE

Sodium hypochlorite (liquid)

Approved for aerobic systems



Never use pool chlorine

It's a different chemistry with higher acidity — it won't treat wastewater properly and can trigger **dangerous reactions**. Texas requires wastewater-certified calcium hypochlorite (NSF Standard 60). Pool tablets fall under a completely different standard.



How much & how often

A rule of thumb for a **1-2 person household** — scale up with more people or heavier water use:

TABLET

1-2 tablets / month

LIQUID

1-1.5 gallons / month

Don't stack tablets — they swell as water passes and can jam, leaving water untreated.



The healthy range

0.1-1.0 ppm

During a maintenance inspection a technician should test your chlorine levels in parts per million. A 0.1 to 1.0 range is what we want to see — enough to kill pathogens, but not so much it overloads the system.



WATCH & LEARN

Everything You Need to Know About Chlorine

The four big questions homeowners ask · tap to watch

[Watch Video →](#)



04 VIDEO LIBRARY

Watch & Learn

Here are some simple videos on specific topics you can learn a lot from in about 5 minutes. Tap any one to watch — and come back whenever your system raises a question.

START HERE



What is an aerobic septic system?



How does your system work?



ALARMS & TROUBLESHOOTING



Why did my red light alarm go off?



Septic system back-up — red light!



More reasons for a red light alarm



Why is my yellow light alarm going off?



Full aerator replacement



Air compressor rebuild



CHLORINE & MAINTENANCE



Everything you need to know about chlorine



Maintenance inspection on an advanced Jet System



What should be included in a maintenance inspection?



PUMPING



Does your septic system need to be pumped?



What you need to know about aerobic septic pumping

