Homeowner's Care & Maintenance Guide

For Your **Hoot System** & **Geoflow Drip System**

Dear Homeowner,

Congratulations on the purchase and installation of your quality **Hoot System** wastewater treatment unit! Your system, utilizing the Geoflow Drip System, has been designed, constructed, engineered and installed to provide long-term, effective treatment of your household wastewater.

THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

During the first few weeks of system operation, your system's "biological ecosystem" must establish itself and it is common for odors to develop around the system and its components. After the first month of operation, your system will stabilize and these odors should go away. A normally functioning Hoot System will have a damp, musty type odor. Also, you may notice some initial wetness over the driplines following your system's installation. This is typical and caused by the treated water seeking the path-of-least-resistance through the recently disturbed soil. The wetness should cease once the ground has settled and a grass cover is established.

A normally-operating Hoot System:

- SYSTEM OK **Green** light on
- Does not beep or chirp
- Has the blower running 24/7

COMMON SENSE CARE OF YOUR HOOT SYSTEM

Your Hoot System is an advanced wastewater treatment system that has mechanical and moving parts (i.e. switches, pumps, sensors, etc.). Like a car, the Hoot System requires annual inspections and routine maintenance to ensure proper system function. Regular contracted maintenance and the following tips will help to avoid malfunction, failure, and costly repairs:

- Inspect and service your system regularly; pump as needed. Visually check control panel on a daily basis to ensure the "green light" is on, indicating that system is functioning properly.
- Use water wisely and maintain all interior plumbing fixtures to prevent excess water from entering your wastewater system (i.e. leaky faucets).
- Watch your drains and don't flush dental floss, feminine hygiene products, condoms, diapers, baby wipes, cotton swabs, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, cat litter, paper towels and other kitchen/bathroom items that can clog and potentially damage your system.
- Try to use products labeled "Nontoxic" and "Septic Safe" and always commercial use bathroom/kitchen cleaners and laundry detergents in moderation.
- Avoid household toxics… flushing household chemicals, caustic drain openers, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, and paint can stress or destroy the biological ecosystem within your tank.
- Spread your water usage throughout the week. For example, doing all of the household laundry in one day may be a time-saver, but it could overload your system. Also consider using a water-efficient washer and installing water-efficient toilets, faucets and showerheads.
- Eliminating the use of a garbage disposal can reduce the amount of grease and solids entering your system. Frequent use of a garbage disposal can significantly increase the accumulation of sludge and scum in your tank, resulting in the need for more frequent pumping.
- Do not use additives or septic system cleaners.

The use of Tide® & Gain® detergents may disrupt the PH balance of your system. Please use other detergents

- Be aware that the extended use of some strong pharmaceuticals may harm the working bacteria population and/or pH balance inside the tank.
- Ensure that water softeners or water purification systems do not backwash into your wastewater system.
- Keep records of repairs, pumpings, inspections, permits issued, and other system maintenance activities.
- Protect the tank, manhole ports, control panel and blower from potential damage. Do not drive or operate heavy machinery over or near the tank and above-ground equipment. Use caution with lawn mowers and weed eaters near the equipment.
- Educate your household members about what is and what isn't good for your system so they can develop good maintenance habits.

CARE OF YOUR GEOFLOW DRIPFIELD

A Geoflow drip dispersal system has been installed on your property for the subsurface disposal of the treated effluent (wastewater) from your home.

The drip system consists of a series of ½" diameter drip tubing installed at a shallow depth of 8-10" below the ground's surface. It is engineered and designed to effectively disperse the treated effluent into the ground using a combination of soil absorption and plant uptake. Your drip system will function for many, many years with only minimal maintenance being required, provided the following recommendations are followed:

- Establish landscaping (i.e. sod) immediately after installation. This will stabilize the soil and allow for the vegetation to take up the water.
- Do not drive cars, trucks or other heavy equipment over the dripfield. This can damage the drip components or the soil and cause your system to malfunction. Lawn mowers, rubber wheeled garden tractors and light equipment can be driven over the dripfield.
- Do not drive tent stakes, golf putting holes, croquet hoops, poles, swing set poles, etc., into the dripfield area.
- Don't build anything over the dripfield area and don't cover the dripfield with a hard surface (i.e. concrete or asphalt).

Contact your service/maintenance company if you notice any areas of excessive wetness in the field. In most cases, this is usually cause by a loose fitting or a nicked dripline and can be easily and cost-effectively repaired.

WHY MAINTENANCE IS SO IMPORTANT

Remember, proper operation and maintenance of your HOOT System can have a significant impact on how well it works and how long it lasts. There are three main reasons why maintenance of your system is so important. The first reason is **money**… failing wastewater treatment systems can be expensive to repair or replace and improper homeowner maintenance is a common cause of early system failure.

The second and most important reason to properly maintain your system is the **health of your family, your community and the environment**. When any septic system fails, inadequately treated wastewater is released into the environment and any contact with untreated human waste can pose a significant risk to public health. Untreated wastewater from failing septic systems can contaminate nearby wells, groundwater and drinking water sources.

And the third reason to maintain your HOOT System is to protect the **economic health of your community**. Failing septic systems can cause property values to decline and sometimes building permits cannot be issued for these properties. Also, failing septic systems may contribute to the pollution of local rivers, lakes, and shoreline that your community uses for commercial or recreational activities.