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*Vector Assistance*

*School Building Inspections*



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Health Department**

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# A Homeowner's Guide To LPP Maintenance

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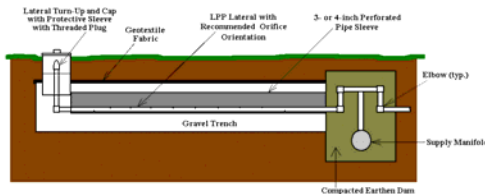
*Union County Environmental Health*

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# What is a Low Pressure Pipe System?

A Low Pressure Pipe System is a septic system that consists of PVC laterals with holes (usually 5/32") drilled into the pipe at specific distances. The pipes are then placed under pressure by using a valve (usually a gate valve) and a pump. By pressurizing the system, equal distribution throughout the lines is established. These systems need to be maintained by an operator, certified by the state, in order to achieve the overall goal of treating the effluent effectively and by preventing effluent from surfacing in the yard.



## What Should my Certified Operator Be Doing During an Inspection?

1. The certified operator should contact the homeowner and inform them that the inspection is due. If at all possible, the homeowner should be at home to meet with the operator.
2. The operator should have a copy of the sewage disposal permit showing the system layout and design criteria for the sewage disposal system
3. The operator should check for water infiltration around the inlet and outlet pipes in the tanks and where the risers connect to the tanks.
4. The operator should check all unions, filters, check valves, controls and floats in the septic tank and pump tank.
5. The operator should check the float on switch in the pump tank to ensure that it is working properly.
6. The operator should check the alarm float in the pump tank to ensure that is working properly.
7. The operator should check the sludge level in the septic tank and pump tank
8. The operator should measure the gallons per minute that the pump is designed to pump out to the drainfield area.
9. The operator should flush out each individual line until the effluent runs clear out of the standpipes. This ensures all solids are out of the drainfield lines. The pressure head then should be set at 3 feet or as described on permit.
10. The operator should make sure that there is no effluent surfacing in the drainfield area. Also, the operator should make sure there is no type of surface

water diverted over the drainfield area. The operator should make sure that all end caps and gate valves are present.

Once the inspection is done then the operator should leave a detailed copy of the inspection sheet for the homeowner. If the operator does not, then the homeowner should call the operator for a copy of the inspection sheet.

This inspection should take anywhere between 30 – 60 minutes depending on how many employees the operator has with them at the time of the inspection.

## Recommendations For LPP Septic Systems:

1. Spread out laundry and dishwashing throughout the week, not all in one day.
2. Make sure no toilets or faucets are leaking.
3. Keep and maintain soil cover over system .
4. Never install an irrigation system within 10 feet of system or repair area.
5. Keep heavy equipment and frequent travel off of septic area.
6. Protect all turn-ups and gate vavles.
7. Pump out tanks every 3-5 years, removing sludge from each.
8. Never plumb water treatment systems into your septic system.