

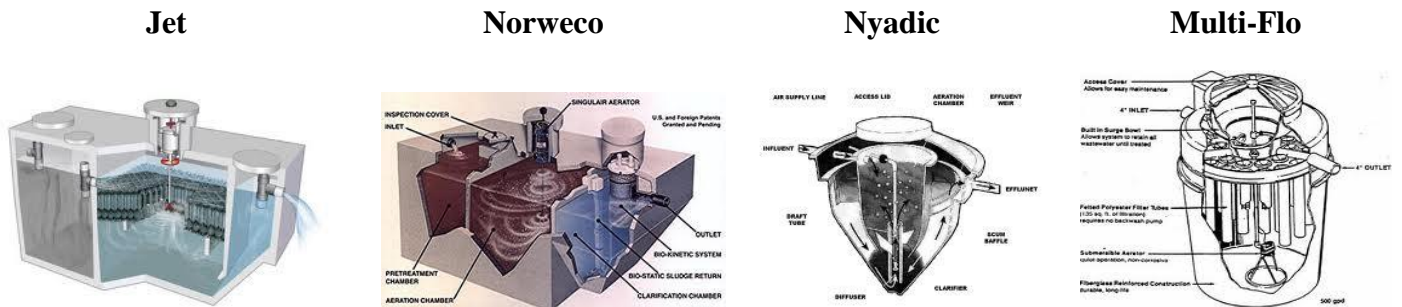


Licking County Health Department ---Environmental Division
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Aeration Tank with Off-Lot Discharge --- Factsheet

- **Aeration Tank:** An aeration tank is a major component of a HSTS system. Unlike a septic tank the aeration tank depends on an electric motor. The main principal behind the operation of this type of tank is air injected into the sewage; the air is utilized by aerobic bacteria. Aerobic bacteria work to break down the wastewater and convert it to odorless liquids and gases. Aerobic bacteria are more efficient in breaking down the wastewater than anaerobic bacteria found in a septic tank.

Common Types of Aerators found in the County:



Aeration tanks were permitted to be installed without any type of secondary treatment (leach field, mound, ECT...) and then discharge to a creek, stream, pond, ditch, or even the surface the ground. Aerators with discharge are no longer permitted to be installed for new homes in Licking County. Some aeration tanks have an internal filters and some tanks have a separate filter such as an up flow filter (gravel, or sand) or subsurface sand filter, followed by a chlorinator or ultra violet light and possibly an inspection port. Due to systems installed prior to any regulations or changing regulations there are many types and configurations of these systems. Since these types of systems discharge, it is extremely important that they are maintained and in good working condition to prevent the spread of disease through bacteria in water, insects, and rodents.

Aerator Maintenance Tips:

- ✓ Check timer/control panel periodically for malfunction, light or alarm
 - ✓ Motor should be running at all times
 - ✓ Motor(type that functions in the tank-Jet,Norweco) should be clean & free from hair & debris
 - ✓ Chlorine should be present in chlorinator
 - ✓ Check discharge to make sure effluent is clear & odorless
- **The Licking County Health Department recommends the following activities to keep your septic system working correctly:**
 - Have your aeration tank pumped every 3 years
 - Do not place any buildings or other structures on top of your system
 - Keep downspout and sump pump drains away from your system
 - Repair any faucet or toilet leaks to avoid adding extra water to your system

