

SEPTIC TANKS AND OUTHOUSES

From Rod Dawson

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Does anybody remember the old outhouse with the half moon on the door? We don't have one but plans are on the drawing board.



After fifteen years or so, septic tanks should be pumped out. Ours needed it. We called an acquaintance who did that kind of work. It only took an hour and a half for the complete job. After the job, and heavy rain, the ground was wet above the tank.

Finally, we noticed that when the toilet was flushed, water bubbled up through the fresh dirt. We watch the bubbling water and decided to call the man who did the pumping. He doesn't do drain fields.

We called another man's answering machine. We left a message. No response. Sybil called early the next morning and got the man. He promised to come out but never showed up. Next morning Sybil called again. The man said he would definitely be here around 9 AM. We waited, and waited, and waited. Nobody came. We gave up on him. Now, we have been trying to not put water down any drains. We follow the old axiom, "When it's yellow, let it mellow. When it's brown, flush it down." and flush the toilet once a day. Sybil washes the dishes in a plastic dish pan and rinses them in another. The dish water goes into a galvanized bucket

and is dumped in the woods. We can remember our grandparents doing something similar! Baths are also taken in a basin. Good thing we have a Laundromat within reach. We are living a primitive life and looking more and more at our outhouse plans!

The next man we called answered the phone! What a relief to talk to a human! This man explained we had to call the Health Department before anything at all could be done. Sybil visited the Health Department and made an application so they could evaluate our system. When she asked when we could expect the inspector, she was told it should be within two weeks! Now Sybil is a very patient woman but she almost lost her cool. The woman's eyes must have widened! She promised she would try to get someone here earlier. Does anyone believe that?

Within two weeks, the Health Department will evaluate our septic system. I could have done that over the phone. Then we find a contractor. If past experience is any indication, we may get the job started within a month. If it rains, nobody can work. It is a good thing we have a wooded area behind the house! Hope the Poison Ivy doesn't bloom soon!



Heading for the woods

Answering machines are an invention of the Devil. There have been no answers from one yet!