

Don'ts of septage pumping & land application:

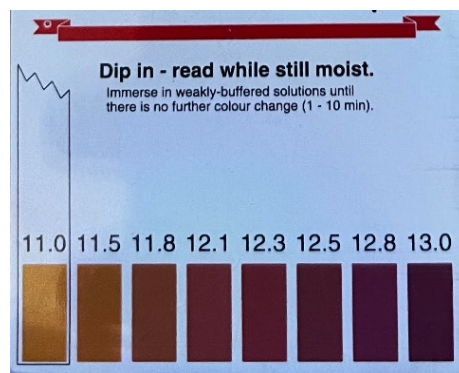
A list of common SSTS maintenance mistakes

- **Don't** pump through the inspection pipe...unless the homeowner refuses to allow access to the maintenance hole in writing, with a signature.
 - Pumping through the inspection pipe leads to incomplete removal of septage from the tank.
- **Don't** forget about the pump tank (**pump that too!**).
 - Sludge must be removed if within one inch of the pump intake.
- **Don't** land apply unevenly (i.e. claiming a whole field but only using part of it, applying more in one part of the field than another, or applying without a spreading device).
 - Applying unevenly causes parts of the field to receive very little nitrogen and other parts to receive too much nitrogen. Too much nitrogen is a threat to human and environmental health.
- **Don't** park and empty the truck.
- **Don't** take the temperature of the truck, collar, plate, etc... **Take the temperature of the septage.**
 - The temperature of the truck's tank/collar/plate/etc. does not equal the temperature of the septage.
- **Don't** use a meter that has not been calibrated.
 - Using a pH meter that has not been calibrated leads to inaccurate pH measurements.
 - Follow the manufacturer's instructions for calibration process and frequency.
- **Don't** measure the pH before hydrated lime is added to the septage.
 - Remember, the two pH measurements are used to show that the hydrated lime raised the pH to 12 or higher after temperature correction **and** that it remained at 12 or higher for 30 minutes or longer.
- **Don't** use a wide range pH strip (see example on the left).
 - Find pH test paper booklets that feature narrow pH unit graduation (0.2 to 0.3 pH) and can be used for specific pH measuring. Choose a range that includes 12-13.

The examples below are for reference purposes and are not a recommendation of specific brands.



- The example above can read 11 and 12, but nothing between 11 and 12 and it cannot read above 12. Therefore, the example does not work for land application of septage.



- The example above is a better choice because it can read 11.8, 12.1, 12.3, 12.5, 12.8, and 13.0.