

A HOMEOWNERS GUIDE TO SEPTIC SYSTEMS

TREES...our country properties are full of beautiful green trees that grow tall and deep. Spreading their leaves and roots far and wide, we worry that the trees will crack or blow down in the wind, land on the house or take out the electric.

But do you worry about where the roots are going ? Where those long tendrils are going ? Searching for more than water, searching for nutrients, searching for fertilizer and our country properties are equipped with ready-made fertilizer pots, well... Okay, we call these pots: septic tanks, wastewater reclamation treatment systems, the way we keep flushing our toilets and disposing of the water we use in our houses.

Those wandering tree roots are looking for a free meal and the drainfield lines provide a clear, free highway directly to the septic tank. Those pesky little roots start to gather, competing for who can be first to the golden (okay brown) prize, the roots splurge and feast. They grow bigger, thicker and pass the information back to the tree "FREE FOOD" abundant, water enriched goodies, more arrive, it's getting crowded down there in the dark as the roots entwine, trying to grow, fighting for space, becoming a "ROOT BALL". Yes, that's the technical term that we in professional pumping service call this phenomenon.

This miracle doesn't happen overnight, no, it takes years, years that the system wasn't looked at, wasn't maintained and wasn't pumped. It doesn't even happen all the time. In the last 17 years, I have only seen these happen 10 or 12 times and you would think with all those trees the occurrence rate would be higher.

People are more aware in the last few years of what a maintained system can mean in their lives, think ease of flushing, the cost of repair or replacement of the tank or entire system, the investment that a well functioning system means when selling the residence or even doing a remodel on the home.

Our trees here in Oregon are some of the most beautiful in the world. We owe it to ourselves and the environment to cohabitate with consideration and kindness.

Spring is on the way !!!

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"For All Things Septic"