

# STAYING SAFE AROUND YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

According to the Western Canada Onsite Wastewater Management Association (WCOWMA), the following precautions should be taken before going near your septic tank or drainfield.

## 1. **Never enter a tank.**

Septic tanks are considered to be confined spaces as defined by WorkSafeBC, and can pose a serious danger to untrained people. The noxious gases contained in your tank can be potentially deadly, and therefore it is not advised for you to go inside your tank. Extreme care should be taken when looking in the tank.

## 2. **Keep the tank lid secure.**

Secure and regularly inspect your septic tank lid to avoid accidental entry. Make sure that children and pets are kept away from the tank during inspections and pump outs.

## 3. **Prevent electric shock and explosions**

Decomposing sewage and wastewater in your septic system produces methane and other flammable gases. Avoid smoking, using electric lights or power tools or any other sources of flame/sparks near your tank or drainfield.

## 4. **Do not touch the liquid, sludge or scum from your tank**

These substances can cause infectious diseases. If you do come in contact with these substances, be sure to wash thoroughly.

## 5. **Mark your tank and drainfield location**

This will help prevent any potential damage from vehicles or other machinery.

## 6. **Do not put any fertilizers or flammable substances in your system**

The risk of explosion increases if these substances are put in your system.

## 7. **If you smell sewer gas in your home, evacuate the building**

A sewer gas smell inside the house can be a sign of a serious issue, and may cause health problems.

## 8. **Avoid hazardous products**

These items are hazardous and can not be tolerated by your septic system:

- Pesticides
- Antifreeze
- Fertilizers
- Paint (including latex)
- Degreasers