

## How It Works: Pump Tanks

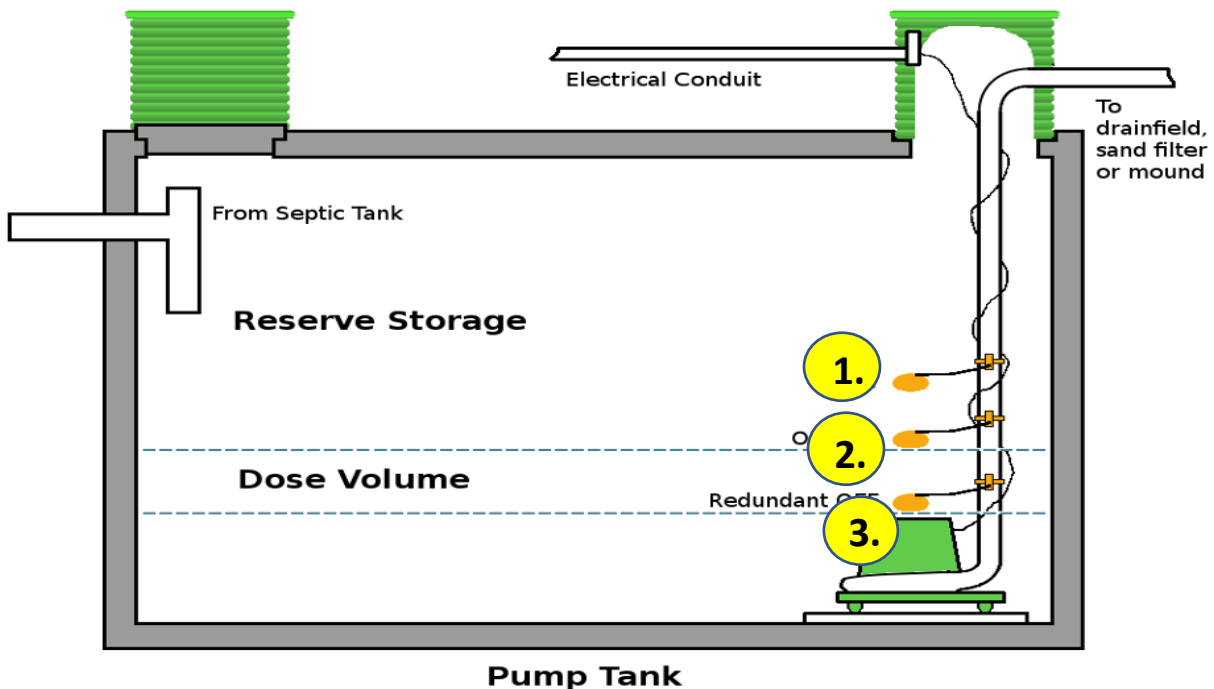
Tanks can be manufactured from precast concrete, polyethylene plastic, or fiberglass. The number of tanks needed, and gallon capacity depends on the number of bedrooms in the house.

### Pump Tanks

If an STS cannot disperse sewage effluent to the secondary treatment component by gravity, a pump tank can be installed after the tanks to discharge the sewage effluent.

The pump tank is equipped with a pump with two (2) to three (3) floats.

1. **High-Water Float**- This float will turn on when the pump is not functioning and/or there is too much water in the pump tank.
2. **ON/OFF Float**- This float will turn on the pump when the sewage effluent reaches a certain level in the pump tank. When the pump turns on, it will discharge the sewage effluent into the secondary treatment component of the STS.
3. **Redundant Off Float**- This float will turn the pump off once the sewage effluent reaches a certain level in the pump tank.



Pump tanks can either be **Demand** or **Timed Dose**. **Demand dose** is when the float in the pump tank will turn on the pump when sewage effluent reaches a certain level in the pump tank. Demand dose pump tank can discharge multiple times per day based on the usage of the STS. **Timed dose** is when the pump is set to a particular time to turn on to discharge the sewage effluent to the secondary treatment component. Timed dose helps control the amount of sewage effluent discharging into the secondary treatment component.

### **Homeowner O&M Requirements**

Tank(s) are simple to maintain. The most important maintenance of the tank(s) is to have it pumped by a registered septage hauler. It is recommended to have tank(s) pumped every 3 to 5 years. Ensure the tank lids are exposed so the hauler can have easy access into the tanks. Keep copies of your septic tank pumping records.

To find a registered septage hauler in Pickaway County, please view our contractor list on our website at [www.pickawaycountypublichealth.org](http://www.pickawaycountypublichealth.org).



To help maintain the quality of the sewage effluent and keep bacteria in the tank(s) healthy, use water in the household efficiently and NEVER flush anything down the toilet besides human waste or toilet paper.

### **Remember the 3 Ps for flushing: Pee, Poop & (toilet) Paper:**

Flushing anything other than the 3 Ps can require more frequent septage pumping and cause damage to the STS. *\*View the EPA SepticSmart document on our website to learn about items not to flush.*

### **Monitoring Pump Tank:**

If your STS has a pump tank, newer models will be equipped with a control panel. If the alarm on the control panel is on (flashing with audible noise), contact a service provider to inspect the STS to determine the problem and solution.

To find a registered service provider in Pickaway County, please view our contractor list on our website at [www.pickawaycountypublichealth.org](http://www.pickawaycountypublichealth.org)