

Septic System Ventilation and Odor Control

By:

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Septic gases are a natural part of your septic system. Hydrogen sulfide and methane are some of those gases and is a normal byproduct of the breakdown of wastes that occurs within your septic system. Ventilation will take care of these gases. How is your septic system ventilated? A septic system is vented in many ways. One way is by the system itself underground where there are inlet and outlet pipes that allow the gases to discharge out into the drainage field. Sometimes these inlet and outlet pipes can become blocked through non-biodegradable debris or due to a high water level within the tank. If they are blocked, gases can flow back into the household system causing smells and odors. If the pipes do get blocked they can be cleared out and causes for the high water levels in the septic tank can be investigated. High water levels may be attributed to either blockages or pump failure.

Another way to ventilate the system is the vent pipe on the roof. . That vent pipe will pull septic system odors up through to above the roofline of the home. The sewage odors and gases can easily find their way out and away from your home due to the low pressure in the pipe. The rooftop vent pipe should be high enough to reach above the roof line and not too close to neighboring trees, so the odors can disperse properly. A downdraft can occasionally cause a smell in the home, but as long as the area around the pipe is clear, this should be a rare occurrence.

The roof vent and yard based septic vent is a necessary part of your plumbing system. The job of the plumbing vent is to enable the pressure in your drain system to equalize. When water and waste flows down your drains, pressure in your plumbing drains increases as the air in the system is displaced by water and waste. Without the plumbing vents, the drains would gurgle up into your sinks, tubs and toilets. The plumbing roof vent and yard based septic vent is also a place where septic gases and sewer gases exit the system safely. These gases are a natural byproduct of the bacteria that break down the waste in either your septic system or sewer line. Because of this naturally occurring cycle, the septic and sewer gases have a foul odor. Normally, the gases are carried up and away from the system's vent pipes. However, under certain conditions, these Hydrogen Sulfide (also known as H₂S) and Methane gases might be pulled down into your yard around your home or place of business. Placement and height of the roof vent is important to combat this. Odors can also sometimes be eliminated with carbon filters in the roof or septic vents.

There is also a new style septic system design called a pressure dose septic system. This style septic system is becoming more popular as it utilizes both a solids and a liquid septic tanks. By separating the liquid from the solids, it allows for a cleaner liquid to be pumped up into the leeching field allowing the leeching field to be significantly smaller than what would be necessary in a standard septic system. For safety reasons, this style septic system requires that the liquid tank be vented to purge the Hydrogen Sulfide and Methane gases away from the electronic pump found in the septic tank. With pressure dose style septic systems, the septic gases are purged directly to the yard through a vent causing unpleasant odors, even under the best of conditions. This septic vent is typically located somewhere in the yard near the liquid tank.

In certain situations the Hydrogen Sulfide that would normally exit your roof vent and be carried up and away, will actually be pulled down into your yard creating not only an annoying problem, but also an unhealthy living environment. Different climate conditions, such as temperature variances and change in wind direction, can direct the gases back toward your living area. This problem can be magnified by the location of your home as well. If your home is located against a hill or near objects taller than your roof vent, negative pressures can naturally develop pulling the septic gas or sewer gas down from your roof vent and into your yard or place of business. An evaluation by Septic Preservation Services can help with this problem.

Commercial businesses generate more gases and odors. Chemical scrubbing is a gas scrubbing method in which contaminants are removed from the gas stream. During this process the gas stream passes through a packed structure with a large wet surface area. The wet area enables contact between the gas and the scrubbing chemicals and allows for removal of contaminants from the gas stream.

If you notice foul odors coming from your septic vent, don't assume that you have serious problems with your septic system. Septic Preservation Services are experts in septic repair. They will quickly come out and evaluate the problem and perform repairs quickly and easily. You can reach them at 877-378-4279 or visit www.septicpreservation.com