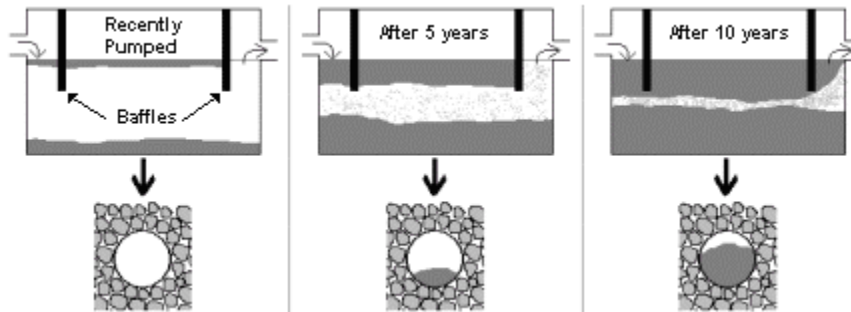
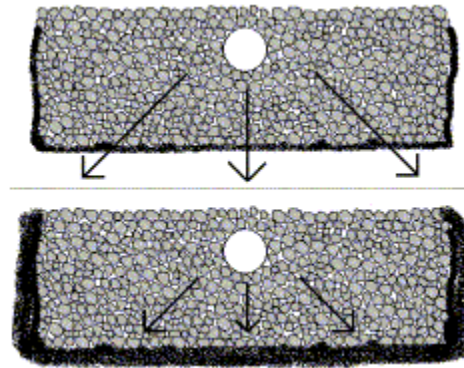


## SEPTIC TANKS – WHY SHOULD I PUMP MY TANK?

The picture below is a side view of a septic tank depicting solids accumulating in the tank through the course of several years. Below the tanks are cross-sections of septic field pipe with blockages forming due to a tank that is not pumped out often enough.



An additional concern with onsite sewage treatment systems is the build up of biomat in the soil. Biomat consists of microorganisms and their waste products. It forms where the absorption system stone and soil contact each other. A small amount of biomat is normal; however, if the wastewater contains excessive amounts of solids, then the organisms in the biomat will feed on the increased amount of nutrients and the layer will thicken. As the biomat thickens, the flow of water out of the absorption area will slow. Eventually the wastewater will surface on the ground. To protect the onsite sewage treatment system against excessive sludge, pump the tank every 2 to 3 years.



Photos and information courtesy of DuPage County Health Department:  
[http://www.dupagehealth.org/ehs/ws/fs/sds\\_care.asp](http://www.dupagehealth.org/ehs/ws/fs/sds_care.asp)