

INSPECT, DESLUDGE AND REPAIR YOUR STS

10. Do inspect your STS and measure the depth of sludge at least once every 6 months. More frequent inspection and desludging might be necessary for heavily used STS's.

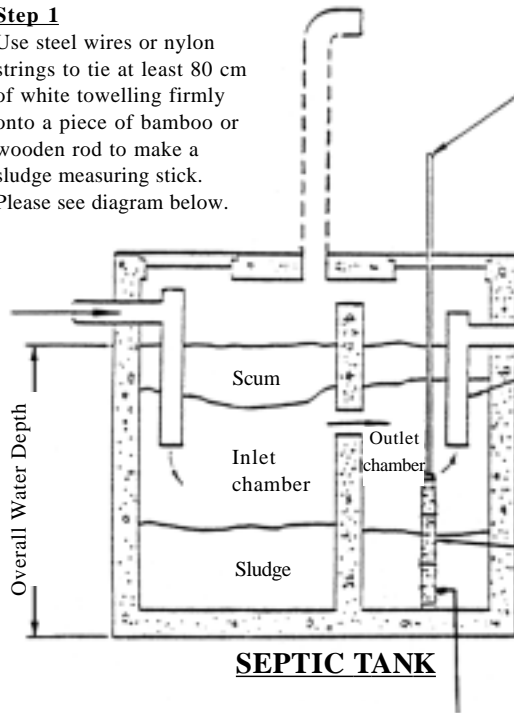
Inspecting Your STS

Step 1

Use steel wires or nylon strings to tie at least 80 cm of white towelling firmly onto a piece of bamboo or wooden rod to make a sludge measuring stick. Please see diagram below.

Step 2

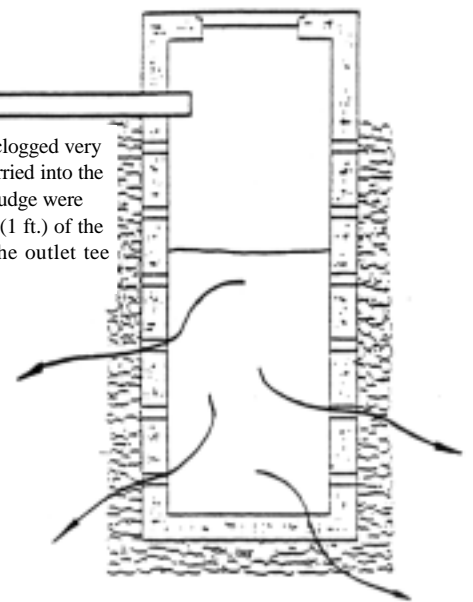
Make an opening in the scum crust with a rod and lower the sludge measuring stick through the opening to avoid the stick being blackened by the scum particles.



The soakaway pit and soil would be clogged very easily if solids were allowed to be carried into the soakaway pit; this would happen if sludge were allowed to build up to within 30 cm (1 ft.) of the bottom of the outlet tee pipe or if the outlet tee pipe were broken.

Step 3

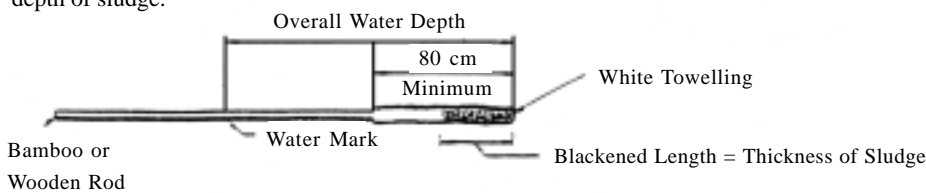
Thrust the measuring stick through the sludge layer forcefully to ensure that the measuring stick reaches the bottom of the tank.



Step 4

Measure the depth of sludge.

White towelling will be blackened by sludge clinging to the towelling.



SLUDGE MEASURING STICK

Note: Desludging of the STS is necessary if this exceeds 30 cm (1 ft.) or 1/4 of overall water depth.

Safety Measures

NEVER ENTER a STS unless it has been deslugged & thoroughly vented. Only experienced personnel should enter a STS.

It is recommended that you hire experienced personnel to regularly inspect your STS under your observation, and to desludge your STS whenever necessary.

11. Do inspect your STS immediately whenever
- there is any flooding / overflow from your STS,
 - foul smell becomes more noticeable,
 - your toilet doesn't flush well or your sink doesn't drain well.

12. Do desludge your STS whenever

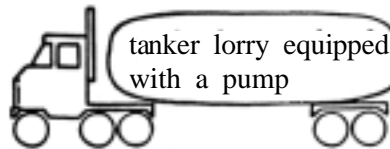
- thickness of sludge exceeds 30 cm (1 ft.) or 1/4 of overall water depth.
- clogging of the septic tank outlet pipe or the soakaway pit or soil is suspected.

NEVER LEAVE YOUR MANHOLE COVER OPEN UNATTENDED

Your STS is a **HAZARDOUS TRAP** for anyone to fall in, especially for the young and the elderly.

Desludging Your STS

PREFERRED METHOD



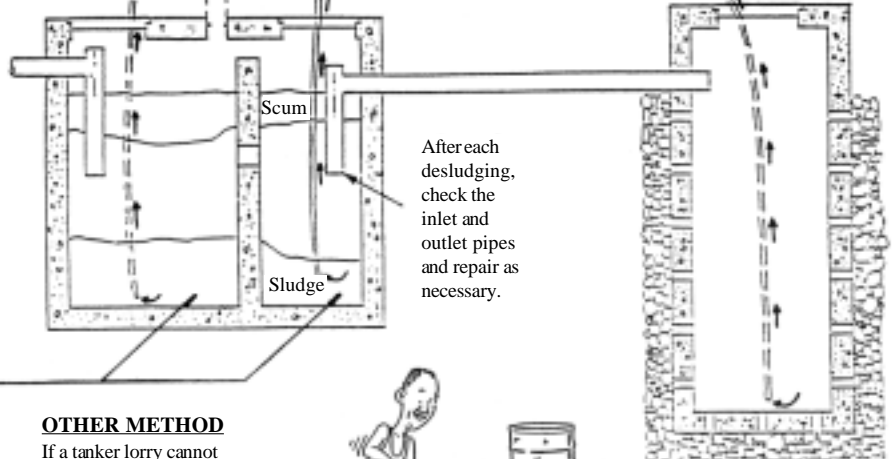
OR



tank mounted on lorry

Pump out the content of the septic tank and any settled sludge in the soakaway pit into a tanker lorry. This is usually done by a specialist contractor.

A septic tank should not be completely cleaned. A thin layer (approx. 1 cm) of old sludge should be left at the bottom to maintain the efficiency of the septic tank after desludging.



After each desludging, check the inlet and outlet pipes and repair as necessary.

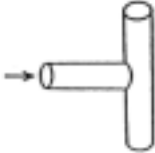
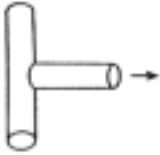

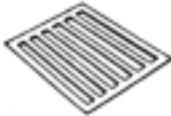
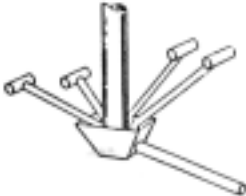
OTHER METHOD

If a tanker lorry cannot reach the septic tank, employ an experienced personnel to use a long handled shovel to remove the scum and dig out the sludge, and then remove them in drums or other suitable containers for disposal at sewage treatment works.



13. Do dispose of your STS sludge properly. Sludge removed should be transported by specialist contractors to sewage treatment works for disposal. The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department may, subject to the availability of resources, also provide desludging services to private STS on a chargeable basis. For enquiries, please refer to the table on page 12.

14. Do inspect if there is any defect in your drainage system or STS after each desludging. If so, repair the defect before resuming discharge into your STS.

Check		Any defects? (Y/N)
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Inlet Tee-pipe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Outlet Tee-pipe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vent pipe & screen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Drain openings and screens</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Drainage pipes</p>	

15. Do keep a record of all inspection, desludging and repair work carried out at your STS. Use the table at the back of this book. A photograph can save a lot of words.

