

FACTS

ABOUT SEPTIC AND CESSPOOL CLEANING

COMPOUNDS

1. Three major chemicals commonly used for the “de-clogging” of septic systems and cesspools are 1,1,1 Trichloroethane, Methylene Chloride and Orthodichlorobenzene. These organic compounds are listed with the E.P.A. as toxic, mutagenic and suspected to be carcinogenic.
2. These chemicals when introduced into a septic system move directly into the groundwater and are very persistent in the environment.
3. Use of these chemicals are unnecessary in a septic tank system if the system is properly operated and maintained.
4. Chemical “de-cloggers” are only short term remedies and therefore constitute an unnecessary threat by toxic pollutants to the groundwater.
5. Based on New York State guidelines for organic contamination in drinking water, the recommended amount of a well known organic cleaner (one gallon) can cause 20 million gallons of drinking water to be unsafe for consumption.
6. Since Cape Cod is totally dependent on its groundwater resources the continued use of these compounds constitutes a potential threat to the public health of the residents of Cape Cod.
7. In a statement issued February 1986, the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering took the following stand, “The department does not recommend nor approve the use of any additives for the maintenance or rehabilitation of septic systems but recommends more frequent pumping as a means to prevent premature system failures”.