



NPDES Testing: What are they testing for? What are common causes of Failure? Volume 14

Test Performed	Testing For	Common Causes	Common Corrections
Dissovled Oxygen	How much oxygen is in the aeration chamber for the bacteria to live.	Aerator shaft not clear. Aerator air output too low.	Using laundry detergent or fabric softner that is high in lanolin causing build up in the aerator shaft.
	The bacteria eats waste.		Allowing water softner discharge enter the system.
Total Suspended Solids	Solids suspended in the discharge flow.	Excessive solids system needs pumped.	Solids in trash trap are excessive and need pumped.
		Leaking risers.	Hydraulic Overload - solids are moving from one chamber to the next too soon and not breaking down.
			Risers are allowing ground water into system and other contaminants.
			Storm water connected to system - gutters or storm corcks.
Nitrogen Ammonia	A toxic pollutant	Harsh chemicals i.e.: bleach or deodorizers	Excessive amounts of bleach or utility tubs from garage tied into the system.
			High PH in the system.
CBOD5	Oxygen consumed by bacteria for 5 days	Aerator shaft not clear. Aerator air output too low.	Using laundry detergent or fabric softner high in lanolin causing build up in the aerator shaft.
		Re-aeration not operating properly.	Allowing water softner discharge to enter the system.
			Re-aeration air stone plugged or not working.
E.Coli	Bacteria	Ultra Violet not operational.	Repair or replace UV
		Chemicals need added.	Add chemicals.

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Remember, Prevention is the best form of defense!

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