



Household Wastewater Treatment

Home-Owner Risk Assessment Sheet

Keeping Hauser Lake Clean

WORKSHEET 4

ASSESSMENT 1 – *Septic System Design and Location* - The assessment table below will help you identify potential environmental risks related to Hauser Lake, your drinking water and the treatment of your home’s wastewater. For each question indicate your risk level in the right-hand column. Your goal is to lower your risks. Some choices may not correspond exactly to your situation. Choose the response that best fits your situation. When finished turn to the **Action Checklist** on page 4-12 and record your medium and high-risk practices. Use the BMP recommendations in Section #4 *Household Wastewater Treatment* to help you decide how to best reduce pollution.

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Capacity of system:	Tank is designed to handle more wastewater than required, based on the size of the home.	Capacity just meets load requirements, but I watch out for factors indicating system overload. Water conservation measures are taken.	Bathrooms, bedrooms, or water-using appliances are added without reexamining the capacity of the wastewater system.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Separation distances: Drainfield	Drainfield over 100 feet from well. Depending on soil type the drainfield is between 100-300 feet from any surface water source (see Section # 4)	Drainfield is 100 feet away from the well and surface waters.	Drainfield is less than 100 feet from the lake or drinking water well.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Tank	Greater than 50 feet from well and surface waters.		Tank is less than 50 feet from the well or surface waters.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Soil type:	Soil is fine-textured like clay loams or silty clay.	Medium sands to fine sands-loamy sands.	Soil is coarse-textured like sand, sandy loam, or gravel.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Safety devices:	Alarm on the pumping chamber or lift station indicates that the tank is full or power has been cut off to the pump.		There is no alarm to indicate tank overflow or that power has been cut off to the pump.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

ASSESSMENT 2 – On-Site System Maintenance – Use the table below to rate your risks related to maintaining the septic system. When finished turn to the **Action Checklist** on page 4-12 and record your medium and high-risk prac-

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Age of system or holding tank:	System is five years old or less.	System is between six and twenty years old.	System is more than twenty years old.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Type of tank:	Cement.		Steel or fiberglass.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Condition of tank:	Tank and baffles are inspected for cracks; repairs are made promptly.		The condition of the tank and baffles is unknown.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Tank pumping:	The septic tank is pumped on a regular basis as determined by an annual inspection. Holding tanks are pumped as needed.	Septic tank has been pumped but date is unknown.	Septic tank has never been pumped. The holding tank overflows or leaks between pumpings.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Drainfield protection:	Vehicles and other heavy objects or activities are kept from the drainfield area.	Occasionally, the drainfield is compacted by heavy objects or activities.	Vehicles, livestock, heavy objects, or other disturbances are permitted in the drainfield area.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Diverting surface water:	All surface runoff is diverted away from the drainfield area.	Some surface water flows into the drainfield area.	Runoff from land, rooftops, driveways, etc. flows into the drainfield.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Backflow protection:	A backflow valve is installed to prevent backup.		No anti-backflow devices is installed to prevent backup.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Plantings over the drainfield:	Grass or other shallow rooted plantings are over the drainfield.		Trees and shrubs are growing on or near the drainfield.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Signs of trouble:	Household drains flow freely. There are no sewage odors inside or outside. Soil over the drainfield is firm and dry. Well water tests negative for coliform bacteria.	Household drains run slowly. Soil over the drainfield is sometimes wet.	Household drains back up. Sewage odors can be noticed in the house or yard. Soil is wet or spongy in the drainfield area. Well water tests positive for coliform bacteria.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

ASSESSMENT 3 – Septic or Sewage System Inputs – Use the table below to rate your risks relating to system inputs.

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Settleable solids:	No use of a garbage disposal. No disposal of bulky items (disposable diapers, sanitary napkins) in toilet.	Moderate use of garbage disposal.	Frequent use of garbage disposal unit. Disposal of bulky items very probable.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Dissolved solids (household chemicals):	There is careful use of household chemicals (paints, cleaning products). No solvents, fuels, or other hazardous chemicals are poured down the drain. No water softener.	Moderate disposal of diluted household chemicals.	Extensive disposal of diluted household chemicals.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Floatable solids:	No disposal of cooking grease or oils into septic system. Oil and grease wiped from cooking utensils before washing.	Routine disposal of grease or oils. No attempt to reduce disposal of grease and oil.	Extensive disposal of cooking grease or oils in household septic system.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Water use:	Conservative water use. Good maintenance of water conserving fixtures. No water softener.		Excessive water use. Leaking fixtures. No water conserving fixtures.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Cesspool:			Any cesspool or surface discharge of wastewater violates Idaho Law.	<input type="checkbox"/> High

