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Table 1. Storage Capacity of Different Size Holding Tanks

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Discover the Advantages

A wastewater holding tank may be the best choice for your new home, cottage or business or for replacing your existing wastewater system.

What is a Holding Tank?

Holding tanks are large, single compartment, watertight vessels constructed of concrete, fibreglass or polyethylene built to CSA standards. They provide short-term storage of untreated wastewater. They are convenient to install and can even be installed above ground. Holding tanks must be periodically pumped out by a registered wastewater hauler.

Protecting the Environment

Our province has an abundance of lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater. Proper treatment and disposal of wastewater is one way to help protect this precious natural resource. Used correctly, pump-out systems like holding tanks provide the highest level of environmental protection.

Holding tanks are an ideal alternative to septic fields because they prevent wastewater from draining into the soil. This is especially true for smaller lots and in areas with thin or shallow soil, sand, bedrock, clay, or sloping land. Check with your regional Environment Officer, municipality or Provincial Park to determine if a holding tank is mandatory in your area.

Conserving Manitoba Water

Holding tanks used along with low flush toilets, front loading washing machines and spring loaded taps conserve water and quickly pay for themselves. Low-use water fixtures will decrease the volume of wastewater entering the holding tank, reduce haulage costs and prolong the life of your holding tank. To reduce the contribution of nutrients to our lakes, rivers and streams that lead to harmful algae blooms, homeowners and cottagers are encouraged to select phosphorus-free detergents and cleaning products.

Registering and Installing

• Holding tanks must be registered with your local Manitoba Conservation office prior to installation.
• Failure to register is subject to prosecution and penalty under The Environment Act.
• Holding tanks must be installed at least one metre from any building, three metres from any property boundary, swimming pool or water holding tank, eight metres from any well or embankment and 15 metres from any watercourse.
• Holding tanks must be located where they can be readily accessed by a wastewater pump-out truck.
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For more information

To learn more about installing a holding tank wastewater system, please contact Manitoba Conservation at: 204-945-2970, Toll Free 1-800-282-8069 or visit: www.manitoba.ca

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