

# Brazos County Health Department

## A City-County Public Health District



### News Release

June 29, 2010

For Immediate Release

#### Chlorine Use in Aerobic On-site Sewage Facility Sprayfields

If your house is serviced by an aerobic on-site sewage facility (OSSF), you are among 6,000 other Brazos County residents with this same type of system. The homeowner's responsibility for this type of OSSF is twofold: (1) they must keep an annual service contract with a licensed service provider and (2) they must keep chlorine (tablets or liquid) in their system at all times. It is a violation of State and County regulations to fail to do either of these. Their service provider has the job of, among other duties on a check list, checking the chlorine level discharging through the sprinklers.

These aerobic systems are very efficient at treating waste products, but they cannot keep bacteria and other pathogens from being sprayed out into your yard. This is why you must add chlorine to the system.

The Brazos County Health Department has been compiling records of homeowners that have no chlorine in their systems. Up to 40% of aerobic OSSF owners in Brazos County are not keeping chlorine in their systems. As of July 1, 2010 homeowners that have not had chlorine in their aerobic OSSF systems three times in a row (as per their maintenance provider) will be visited by a health inspector and assessed a re-inspection fee of \$80 if no chlorine is present. They will also check other aspects of the system while there. Other violations found may result in added maintenance costs or possible legal action against the owner.

Please help with this problem by being a good, health-conscious neighbor: Check your chlorine level often and keep chlorine in your aerobic septic system at all times.

*(News media: for more information contact Theresa Manthei, PIO, at (979) 361-4440.)*



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Prevent. Promote. Protect.