



## STEP SEWER SYSTEM INFORMATION

STEP (Septic Tank Effluent Pumping) System is part of our sewage system designed for your particular area, and it is important that you have a basic understanding of how the system operates. The system is owned and operated by the City of Yelm. Electrical service is provided by separate utility service or from the house panel. The on-lot equipment consists of the pretreatment tank, pump, control panel and miscellaneous appurtenances.

### Dos and Don'ts

- **DO - call 360-458-8411 whenever the alarm comes on.** Its sounds like a smoke alarm. The audible alarm can be silenced by pushing the illuminated light located directly above the "PUSH TO SILENCE" label on the front of the electrical control panel. With normal use the tank has a reserve storage capacity good for approximately 24 hours.
- **DO – call 360-458-8411 if your drains are running slow.** The problem may be in either the STEP tank or in your household plumbing. A city representative will check and correct any problems in the pretreatment tank. If it is found to be in your household plumbing, you will be advised to call a plumber.
- **DO – feel free to place a yard decoration on the tank riser as long as it can be readily removed for the sake of maintenance (less than 50 lbs).** Landscaping or permanent structures should be planned in order to ensure that the integrity of the system is not jeopardized. Unless you have a steel lid, don't drive a vehicle over the lid.
- **DON'T – shut off the breaker marked "Yelm Sewer" in your electrical breaker panel.** This would shut down all power for both the pump and alarm and could cause a back up in your home.
- **DON'T – flush undesirable substances into the sewer.** DO NOT FLUSH flammable materials, plastics, cigarette butts, sanitary napkins, contraceptives, excessive grease, coffee grounds, excessive hair or garbage disposal waste.
- **DON'T – enter your tank.** Any work to the tank should be done from the outside by authorized personnel. Gases that can be generated in the tank and/or the lack of oxygen can be fatal.