



INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

WARNING: NEVER ENTER A SEPTIC TANK. SEPTIC GASES ARE TOXIC AND CAN CAUSE ILLNESS OR DEATH. AVOID PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO THESE GASES.

UNPACKING THE SEPTIC GENIE SYSTEM

1. Remove the Septic Genie from the tall box in an area where there is no wind, so any lightweight packing materials do not get blown around. If it is wrapped in plastic, remove the plastic before installation.



If you see any damage to the Septic Genie unit, notify SepticGenie.com before proceeding.

WHERE IS THE BACTERIA?

A Septic Genie Bacteria Tablet (SGTab) comes pre-packed in the bottom of the Septic Genie unit. This may rattle when the Septic Genie is handled. It is not an indication of anything broken in the Septic Genie unit. If you have concerns, you may check the Septic Genie Bacteria Tablet by removing three screws from the bottom, leaving one to realign, and turn the bottom plate to expose the inside bottom of the Septic Genie unit. If by error there is a plastic bag surrounding the Septic Genie Bacteria Tablet, remove it and throw away. Replace the Septic Genie Bacteria Tablet into the bottom of the Septic Genie unit and re-secure the bottom.

2. Open the smaller box and remove the air pump. Check for signs of obvious damage. Notify SepticGenie.com immediately with any concerns about the condition of the air pump. Please dispose of the boxes and packing material in a responsible, environmentally friendly manner.

SHOULD THE SEPTIC TANK BE PUMPED FIRST?

Prior to the installation of the Septic Genie unit in the septic tank, check the thickness of the scum layer in the septic tank. If there is more than six inches of scum it may be prudent to have the septic tank pumped and cleaned. If the septic tank has been pumped within a year of installation of the Septic Genie, pumping should not be necessary. If you are in doubt, pump the septic tank as a precaution.

Call or email SepticGenie.com for directions regarding any issues you might have concerning pumping of your septic tank.

If the septic tank is pumped, allow it to refill by using the septic system as before. When the septic tank has refilled, install the Septic Genie.



If you prefer to install the Septic Genie immediately after pumping and cleaning of the septic tank, first install the Septic Genie following the installation instructions below, then:

- 1) Refill the tank to the top of the Septic Genie with household water, using a hose from an outdoor spigot
- 2) Add 20 pounds of granulated sugar and two cans of inexpensive canned dog food as starter nutrients for the Septic Genie Bacteria. Mix the dog food in water to make a slurry so it will disperse more evenly.
- 3) Turn on the air pump to start the Septic Genie.
- 4) Continue to use the septic system.

The sugar, dog food, and organic waste from the household will jumpstart the Septic Genie Bacteria colony's growth. The bacteria will flow from the septic tank to the clogged disposal field and clear the field of Biomat over time.

PREPARING THE AIR PUMP'S LOCATION

In moderate climates: the air pump can be installed outdoors in a protected area, out of reach from any ground water flow during rain.

In cold weather climates: In areas where there is freezing weather in the winter, SepticGenie.com recommends that you install the air pump in a basement or enclosed space like a garage or shed.

TIP: During the winter months, if the air pump is installed in an unheated shed or garage, it is recommended to put something like an inexpensive plastic washtub over the air pump, but not sealed to the floor or shelf where it sits, to allow air to be drawn into the air pump. Place an old blanket over the tub to provide some insulation. The waste heat from the air pump will preheat the freezing cold air under the tub and blanket. This is an inexpensive way to provide this important advantage for operating the Septic Genie in freezing weather.

In the event of a problem, disconnect the electrical supply (unplug cord) and contact Septic Genie immediately.

NOTE: If you don't have an existing GFI protected outlet where you want to put the air pump, have a qualified electrician provide a surface mounted, GFI protected, interior or exterior outlet within two or three feet of the location of the air pump installation. All work and materials should meet local electrical codes. **Do not plug in or energize the air pump at this time.**

PREPARING THE SITE

- 1) **For a two chambered septic tank:** Install a riser over the inlet opening. For the SG10 the minimum opening size and clear space to the bottom of the tank is 12 inches. For the SG12 it is 15 inches. For the SG6 it is 8 inches. Make certain you have an airtight lid that can be secured against unauthorized access. **It is recommended that the riser and Septic Genie be installed in the inlet chamber**, but they can be installed in either chamber in a two-chambered tank. A "Handyman" or septic contractor can assist in installing the riser if you feel unsure how to do the installation. *See Pictures 1 and 2. Keep the lid on the riser as much as possible while working on the installation of the Septic Genie to limit exposure to septic gases.*
- 2) **For a single chambered septic tank:** SepticGenie.com recommends that an effluent filter be installed on the outlet pipe, or the Septic Genie should be installed in the outlet end of the tank in front of the outlet pipe. If this cannot be done, then the Septic Genie can be installed in either end of the single chambered tank.



- 3) Dig a trench from the air pump to the riser, typically 8 to 12 inches deep. Drill a 15/16-inch hole in the riser for the PVC pipe to enter the inside of the riser.
 - For a plastic or fiberglass riser and lid you can use a cordless drill and a barbed spade bit.
 - For a concrete, brick or concrete block riser, you can rent a RotoHammer and use a one-inch carbide bit to drill through the concrete.
- 4) Install ½ inch Sch 40 PVC pipe as shown in [Pictures 3 and 4](#) as an air supply line. *The length of the PVC air supply pipe is not of concern. There are installations with 300 linear feet of ½ inch PVC pipe between the air pump and the riser.*
- 5) Do not allow dirt or debris to enter the PVC pipe. Use “Wet / Dry” (blue) PVC glue, to allow you to easily check that all connections were glued.
- 6) **NOTE: If you live in areas where there are freezing winter temperatures and the soil becomes frozen, you need to insulate the air supply line to prevent the Septic Genie Bacteria from becoming dormant:**
 - a) Install weatherproof foam insulation (that is typically used on exposed water pipes) around the PVC air supply line where it becomes subject to the freezing temperatures (either above ground or in the trench).
 - b) Insert the insulated air supply line into a two-inch PVC pipe to prevent any weight from the soil covering the trench from compressing the foam insulation, reducing its insulating capability. [See Picture 14.](#)
 - c) Insulate from the first point of exposure to the outside weather and in the trench. Bury the foam-insulated pipe to the same depth of trench described above. *Keep the lid on the riser as much as possible to avoid contact with septic gases.*
 - d) If you are in an area where insulating air lines is required, contact **SepticGenie.com** for further instructions on insulating air lines.

This will prevent the air supply that is “preheated” by the waste heat from the air pump from becoming as cold as the outside air or the frozen ground. Blowing freezing cold air into the septic tank will cause the proprietary blend of bacteria in the Septic Genie to go dormant. They are alive but not active, and produce little or no treatment or population growth.

INSTALLING THE AIR PUMP

- 1) **For outdoor placement:** Place the air pump on a concrete stepping stone close to the exterior GFI protected outlet.
- 2) **For indoor placement:** Place the air pump on a clean flat surface close to the GFI protected outlet.
- 3) Install the ½ inch PVC pipe end of the clear plastic connector assembly (that came with the Septic Genie unit) to the end of the ½ inch PVC Schedule 40 air supply line closest to the air pump. Attach the clear plastic tubing to the outlet port of the air pump and clamp tight. You can shorten the clear plastic tubing to fit your installation [See Picture 10](#). You can install the air pump under a deck, in a utility shed, equipment room, basement or garage. [See Pictures 11, 12, 13](#)
- 4) **For outdoor air pumps:** The air pump is weather proof and UL approved for exterior installations. If you wish, you can put something over your air pump. Look around nurseries or hardware stores in your area for something inexpensive to go over the air pump. **NOTE:** Be sure to ventilate any sealed container with a minimum of 6 two inch diameter or larger holes to keep heat build up under control.



INSTALLING THE SEPTIC GENIE SYSTEM

NOTE: *If your septic tank is buried more than 24 inches deep, you may need an extension for the rope attached to the Septic Genie. This rope is for installation and removal of the Septic Genie.*

- 1) Glue a 4 ft piece of ½ inch PVC Sch 40 pipe to the coupling on the inside of the Septic Genie as shown in [Pictures 5 and 6](#). This is a critical glue connection and should be done with care.
- 2) Holding onto the rope to carry the weight of the Septic Genie, lower it into the septic tank with the Septic Genie facing toward the center of the riser as shown in [Picture 6](#). Allow the Septic Genie to settle to the bottom of the septic tank. Using the rope, “bounce” the Septic Genie up and down a few times to push away any sludge that may be on the bottom and under the Septic Genie. You should “hear” the solid sound of the Septic Genie hit the bottom. Settle the Septic Genie so that the vertical pipe remains basically where you want it. To move the Septic Genie, use the rope to carry the weight of the Septic Genie, and the vertical pipe to help guide it in to the correct position.
- 3) Cut the horizontal PVC pipe coming through the riser as close to the riser wall as is practical. Cut the vertical PVC pipe coming out of the Septic Genie to the correct length to allow a PVC 90 degree elbow to be installed connecting the horizontal and vertical pipes as shown in [Pictures 7 and 8](#). Tie off the rope with a Zip Tie to the horizontal pipe as shown in [Picture 7](#).
- 4) Plug in the air pump cord, or energize the electrical service, so that the air pump starts. Inspect the surface of the septic tank to see if there is active agitation of the effluent similar to [Picture 9](#).
- 5) Sprinkle the Power Pack (loose Septic Genie Bacteria) out of its plastic bag into the top of the septic tank. This will jumpstart the bacteria colony’s growth.
- 6) The installation is complete. Secure the riser lid against unauthorized access to the septic tank.

WHY DOES IT SMELL SO BAD IMMEDIATELY AFTER INSTALLATION?

After starting up the Septic Genie, there will be a noticeable increase in odors for a short time because the effluent is being stirred up. THIS IS NORMAL AND EXPECTED. The odor will typically abate within 24 to 48 hours, and will not return so long as the Septic Genie is properly operated with no stress events or toxic shock to the Bacteria community. See the [Homeowner’s Guidelines to Operating a Septic Genie](#).

If you have questions or concerns about the installation or operation of your Septic Genie, please contact SepticGenie.com for technical support.

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