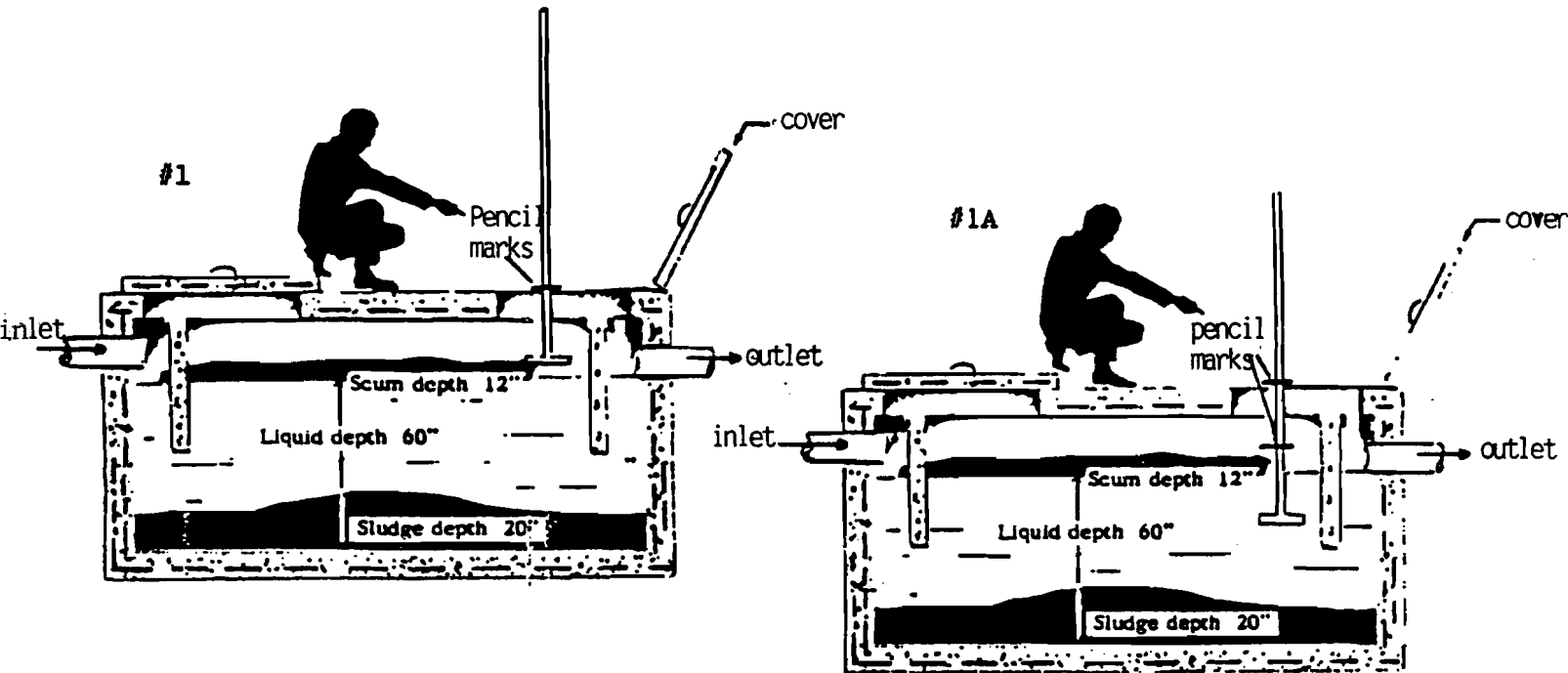


WHEN DOES YOUR SEPTIC TANK NEED CLEANING?

If your septic tank has been installed for two or three years, or longer, it probably needs to be cleaned. (Be sure the private sewage disposal contractor is licensed by the State of Illinois and registered in Henry County.)

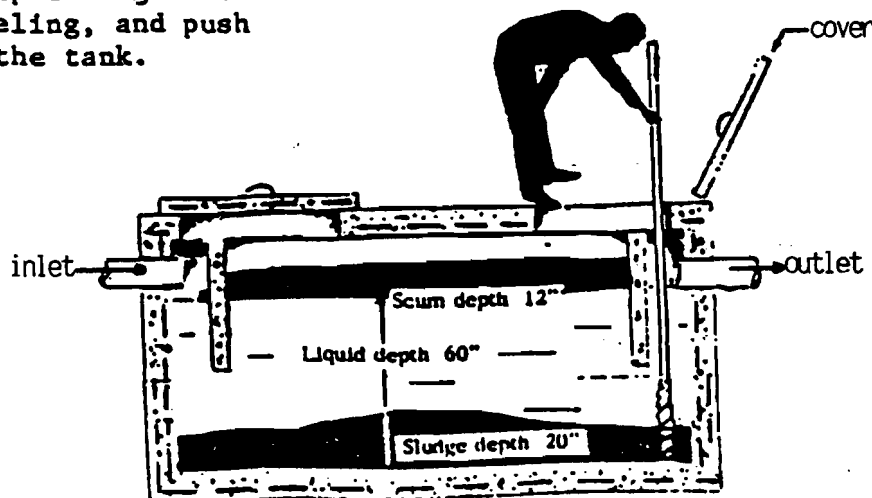
To find out if your tank is in need of cleaning, here's how to check:

1. Measure the amount of scum in the tank: Attach a flat board, about a foot square\*, to a long stick. Lower the bottom of the board to the top of the scum layer and mark the stick at ground level. (See #1)  
 \*check size of tank access cover first



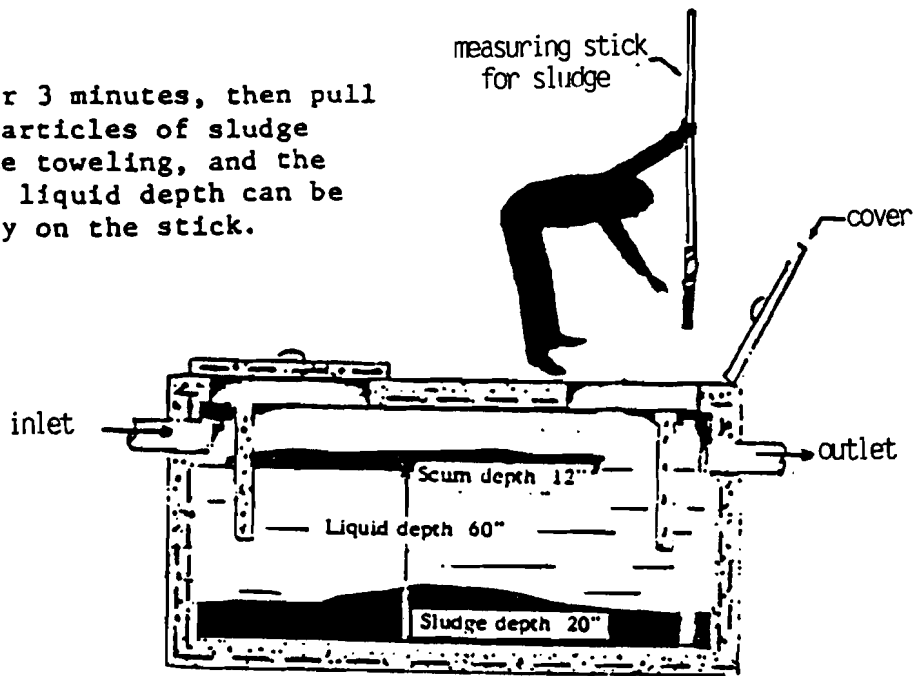
Now, force the board all the way through the scum layer and bring it back until you feel the bottom of the scum layer and mark the stick again (See #1A). The distance between the two marks is the scum depth.

2. Measure the depth of liquid, and the depth of sludge: Wrap a long stick with rough white toweling, and push it to the bottom of the tank.

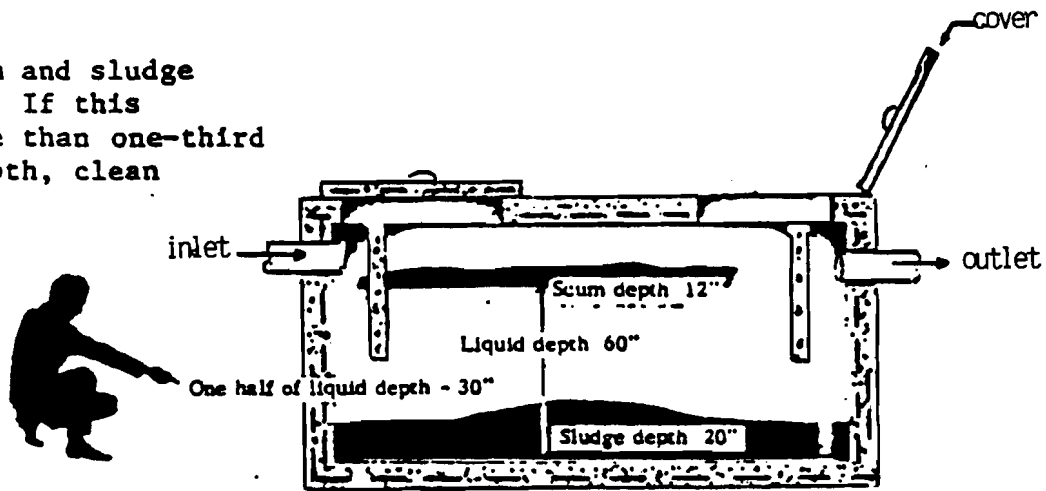


(over)

Let it stand 2 or 3 minutes, then pull it out again. Particles of sludge will cling to the toweling, and the sludge depth and liquid depth can be measured directly on the stick.



3. Total the scum and sludge measurements. If this figure is more than one-third the liquid depth, clean the tank.



SAMPLE: Scum depth 12 inches  
 Sludge depth 20 inches  
 32 inches

Liquid depth of the tank, 60 inches  
 $1/3$  of 60 inches = 20 inches  
 This tank should be cleaned.

For your reference the following definitions are offered:

1. "Sludge" means the accumulated solids settled from sewage.
2. "Scum" means the mass of sewage solids floating at the surface of the sewage in the tank
3. "Influent" means waste going into the septic tank from the house.
4. "Effluent" means the outflow from a tank or other treatment device or unit.