



**TOMHER**  
ENVIRONMENTAL

**The Environmental Engineering Specialist**

## **TYPICAL SEPTIC TANK EFFLUENT COMPONENTS**

The following are typical characteristics of domestic septic tank effluent as it leaves a correctly designed septic tank (where only limited treatment has occurred particularly the ammonia-nitrogen value increase due to anaerobic bacteria.).

1. Total suspended solids: 38 to 85 mg/l
2. 5-Day BOD: 118 to 189 mg/l (this is about a 40% reduction from the level of the entering sewage)
3. Fecal coliform bacteria:  $10^6$  to  $10^7$  CFU/100ml (note that there is little or no reduction over the level of coliform in the entering sewage)
4. Ammonium-nitrogen,  $N_4-N$ : 30 to 50 mg/l (note that this is higher than the number for the raw sewage influent)
5. Total nitrogen: 29 to 63 mg/l
6. Total phosphorus: 8 mg/l

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