**Types of Septic Tank Treatments**

There are several types of septic tank treatments, including inorganic acids or alkalis, hydrogen peroxide, organic solvents, and biological additives. However, some of these treatment types have been shown to be damaging to your septic system and may even be banned by your local government due to the potential pollution of nearby groundwater or degradation of soil content. Because of these potential hazards, it is important to understand the differences between the treatment types.

**Inorganic Acids or Alkalis**

Inorganic acids or alkalis are poor options for the health of your septic tank. These powerful compounds, such as sulfuric acid or lye, are capable of punching a hole through almost any clog, but their harsh chemical makeup destroys the necessary bacteria in the tank, halting the anaerobic digestion process.

If that digestion process inside the tank is impeded, raw sewage leaks into the drain field. This could result in unpleasant odors, leakage into local groundwater, and clogged pipes. The corrosive nature of these treatments also makes them harmful to pipes, tank walls, and distribution boxes, leading to premature weakening of the septic system.

**Hydrogen Peroxide**

Hydrogen peroxide was once a popular suggestion for septic tank treatment by many different septic maintenance companies. However, recent findings have indicated that while hydrogen peroxide doesn’t cause undue harm to the bacterial ecosystem within the tank when properly diluted, it does degrade soil content and compromises the long-term viability of the drain field.

Due to this method’s lasting effects on your drain field’s ability to filter and absorb wastewater, it is not a good option for the long-term care of your septic tank system.

**Organic Solvents**

Organic solvents, including methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, and other chlorinated hydrocarbons, are primarily used as degreasers for their ability to break down oils and grease. As a septic tank treatment option, they work well to break down the collected oils, fats, and greases in the bottom of the tank, but they can do their job too well by also breaking down much of the bacterial ecosystem.

Once these organic solvents leave the septic tank they seep into the drain field along with the rest of the wastewater effluent, but they do not break down. Instead, organic solvents leak into the groundwater system and can cause significant ecological damage. Because of this hazard, organic solvents are banned from use in some states, and their use could potentially create liability issues if groundwater is contaminated.

**Biological Additives**

Biological additives, like bacteria and extracellular enzymes, are the only acceptable septic tank treatment for promoting a healthy bacterial ecosystem, maintaining an effective drain field, and protecting the health of the local groundwater.

This septic tank treatment boosts the bacteria population in the tank and introduces specific enzymes for breaking down fibers (toilet paper), septic tank scum that gathers at the top of the wastewater fluid, and other solid waste that the naturally-occurring bacteria population may have difficulty decomposing.

Just be sure to follow manufacturer recommendations to avoid an excessive build-up of methane gas, which can result in solid waste being pushed into the drain field, where it will clog the pipes and prevent drainage from the tank.