

Septic Tank Drain Fields

Summary

- Rubber Type: Shredded, ½ -inch to 4-inches
- Tires Used: 1,350 tires per system (for a four-bedroom home)
- Advantages
 - Lower cost than conventional stone aggregate
 - Beneficially utilizes waste tires
- Disadvantages
 - Lack of public awareness
 - Lack of access to specifications
- South Carolina Specification for Tire Chips in Septic Tank Systems:
 - Chips produced from recycled tires may be used as coarse aggregate in septic tank absorption systems and may be substituted for mineral aggregate on a one-for-one volumetric basis. When used in this application, chips must conform to the requirements below:
 1. Chips may not be smaller than one-half (½) inch nor larger than four (4) inches in size.
 2. Wire strands may not protrude more than one-half (½) inch from the sides of chips.
 3. When used in an absorption system, at least ninety percent (90%) of the chips must meet the technical specifications listed above.
 4. Fines are prohibited. Fines in this context are defined as particles or substances which can settle to the bottom of the absorption trench and contribute to the clogging or blocking of infiltrative surfaces. Examples of fines include dust, dirt, grit and similar substances.
 5. Absorption trenches must be covered with geotextile (synthetic) fabric prior to backfilling to help preclude soil from infiltrating through the aggregate.
 - The actual, final approval of the tire chips occurs at each septic tank system job site.



- Sources
 - Standard for Tire Chips Used as Aggregate in Septic Tank Absorption Systems (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Bureau of Environmental Health Division of Onsite Wastewater Management, 1995)