FAX 810-231-4295
PHONE 810-231-1000

Hamburg Township

P.O. Box 157
10405 Merrill Road
Hamburg, Michigan 48139

A GREAT PLACE TO GROW

Water Softener Discharge Disposal Methods

The information provided below offers several approved methods for disposing of the water generated from the water softener tank. ***It is unlawful to have sump pumps, downspouts, and water softener backwash connected to the Hamburg Township Sanitary Sewer System*** (HTSSS).

The property owner, or an approved contractor hired by the owner, must disconnect the water discharge (brine) line from the building sewer. The following are some (not all) methods of disposing of water softener discharge:

A. Run the discharge line to the outside and let the water run onto the ground.

B. Install a below-ground infiltration basin (dry-well): Bury a container in the ground, fill it with stone or sand, and run the discharge line to the container. Drill holes in the container to allow the water to seep into the surrounding soil. A sump pump tub, which ranges in size from 15 to 24 inches in diameter to 2 to 4 fee in depth, is an example of a container that could be used.

C. Convert an existing septic tank: Pump out and clean your existing septic tank, break holes in the bottom of the tank and fill the tank with stone. Typically a septic tank will hold 5 – 6 cubic yards of pea stone. Disconnect and plug the outlet pipe to the tile field to prevent groundwater from flowing back into the tank.

ATTENTION:
HAMBURG TOWNSHIP SEWER ORDINANCE NO. 69F SODIUM & CHLORIDE REGULATIONS PROHIBIT DISCHARGE OF THE WATER SOFTENER SYSTEM INTO THE SANITARY SEWER. VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO PENALTIES AND FINES.

Livingston County Health Department

Disposal of Effluent
from Regenerating Water Softeners

A regenerating water softener can produce between 30 to 70 gallons of effluent (wastewater) during each regeneration cycle. If the effluent is discharged into an onsite septic field it can often accelerate the failure of these systems. Septic fields are designed to treat and dispose of wastes that have the potential to transmit disease, such as toilet, laundry, and kitchen wastes. It is unnecessary and an added burden to a onsite septic field to accept discharges from regenerating water softeners.

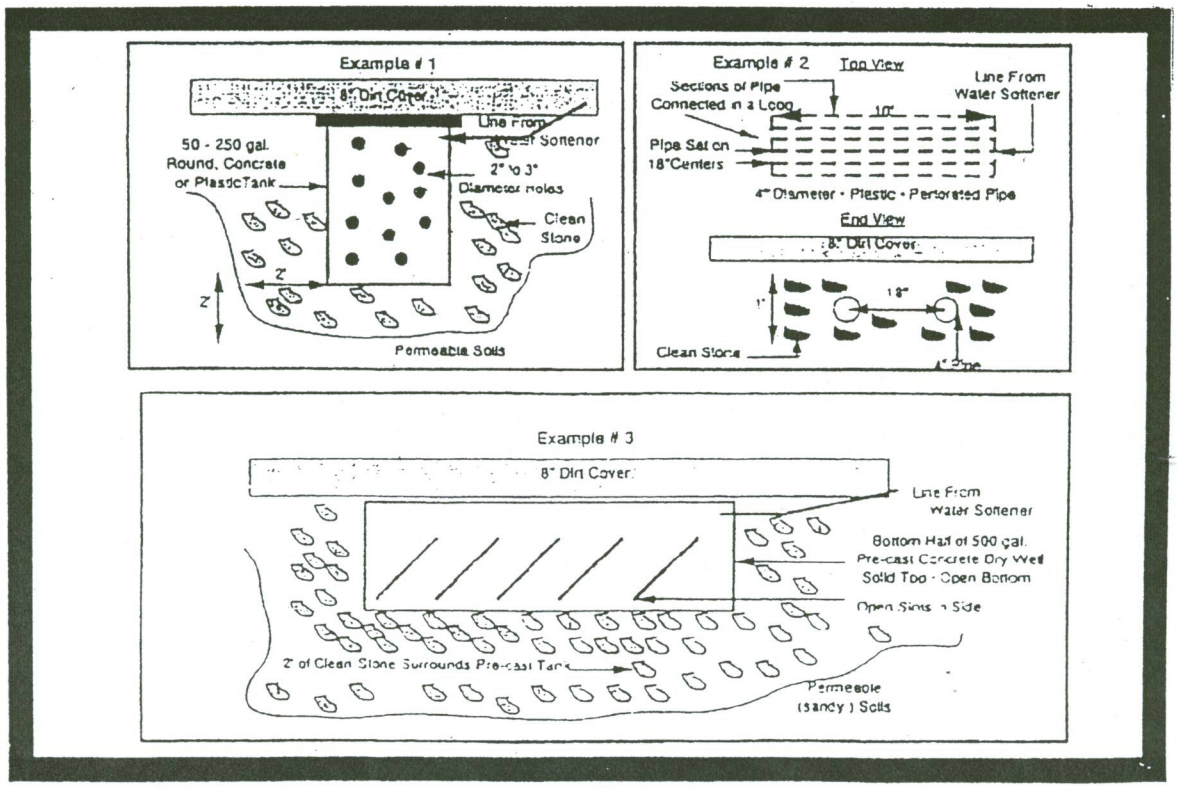
- **As of January 04, 1993, the Livingston County Health Department does not allow water softener lines to be connected or discharged into an onsite sewage disposal system.**

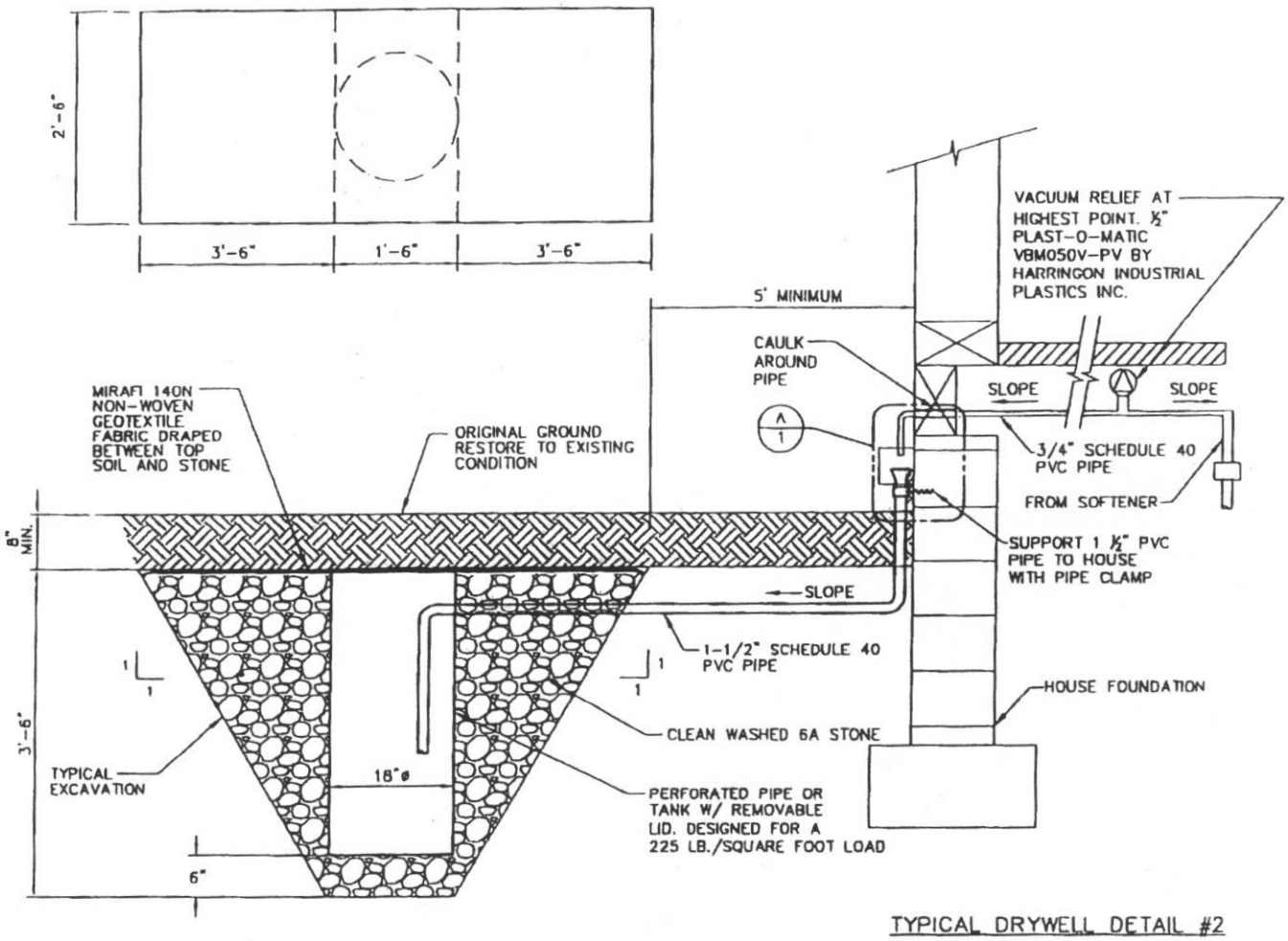
For homes that are currently connected to or will soon be connected to a municipal sewer system, the effluent from your regenerating water softener **cannot** be discharged into the sewer line. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) sodium and chloride regulations prohibit the discharge of water softener effluent into most municipal sewer systems. Water softener effluent should be discharged into a separate disposal system. The construction of a system for onsite disposal of water softener effluent does not require a permit from the local Health department or municipality. The Livingston County Health Department does recommend the following.

- **To prevent back-siphonage, a 2 inch (minimum) air gap is required off the water softener discharge line into the disposal system.**

- **The water softener effluent should not be discharged near a water well; property owners rights on adjacent properties must be observed. LCHD strongly recommends maximizing the isolation between wells and water softener discharge areas.**

The following are a few examples of suggested water softener disposal systems:





TYPICAL DRYWELL DETAIL #2
(DEEPER WATER TABLE)

THIS DRAWING IS GENERAL IN NATURE. FOR THE DRYWELL TO FUNCTION PROPERLY, THE INSTALLER MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE ACTUAL CONDITIONS AT THE SITE. THIS INCLUDES, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, SITE SOILS, SOFTENER DISCHARGE VOLUME AND REGENERATION FREQUENCY, GROUNDWATER ELEVATION, HOUSE FEATURES, WELL LOCATIONS, ETC.

THE DIMENSIONS PROVIDED ARE BASED ON 2 (TWO) TIMES THE SOFTENER REGENERATION VOLUME OF 60 GALLONS.

THE DRYWELL IS DESIGNED FOR THE CONDITIONS SHOWN ON THIS DRAWING INCLUDING THE VOLUME OF SOFTENER DISCHARGE, SOIL CONDITIONS AND MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION. ANY CHANGES IN THE SITE CONDITIONS, CONFIGURATION, MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION AND WORKMANSHIP MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE FUNCTIONING OF THE DRYWELL.

THIS SYSTEM SHALL BE USED FOR WATER SOFTENER DISCHARGE ONLY. DISCHARGES PROHIBITED SHALL INCLUDE SANITARY WASTE WATERS TO INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, TOILET, SINK, SHOWER, LAUNDRY, ETC.

3 WORKING DAYS
BEFORE YOU DIG
CALL MISS DIG
1-800-482-7171
FOR FREE LOCATION OF PUBLIC UTILITY LINES

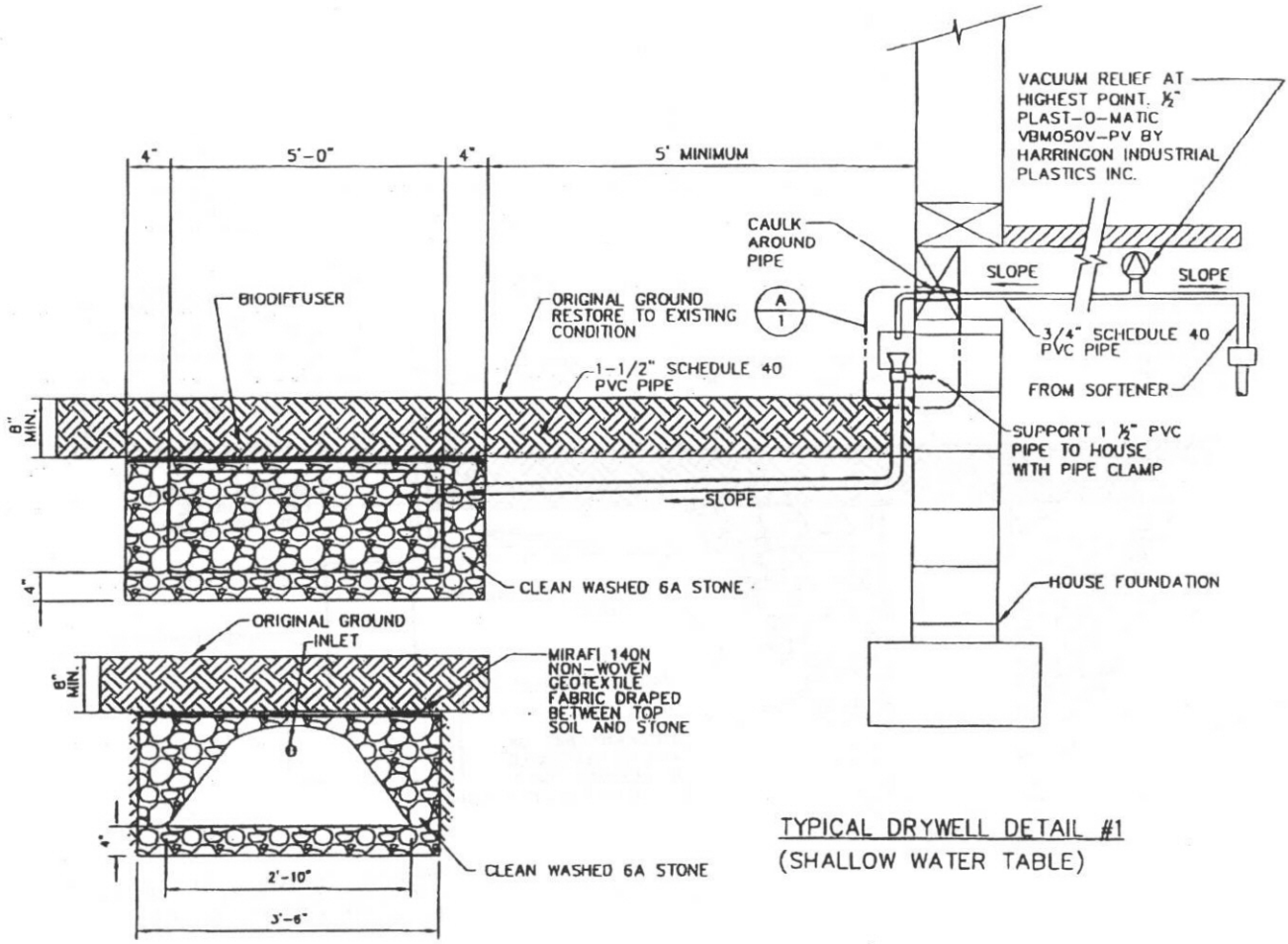
NOTE:

THE LOCATIONS AND ELEVATIONS OF EXISTING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES AS SHOWN ON THIS DRAWING ARE ONLY APPROXIMATE. NO GUARANTEE IS EITHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED AS TO THE COMPLETENESS OR ACCURACY THEREOF. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTACTING MISS DIG PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.

			TYPICAL DRYWELL DETAIL
			WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY

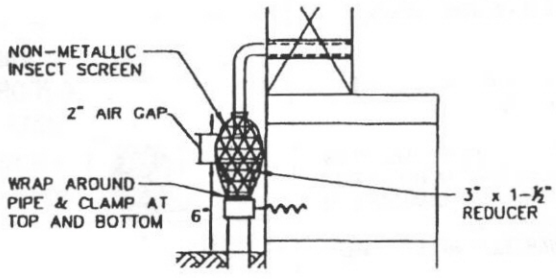
Ayres, Lewis, Norris & May, Inc.
Engineers • Planners • Surveyors
3050 Research Park Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108
(734) 761-1010 phone • (734) 761-1200 fax

PROJ. NUMBER: 89294-02
SHEET: 1



SIDE VIEW OF BIODIFFUSER

TYPICAL DRYWELL DETAIL #1
(SHALLOW WATER TABLE)



A/1 ENLARGED REDUCER DETAIL

NOTES

1. DRYWELLS CAN BE CONSTRUCTED BY EXCAVATING AN AREA IN THE GROUND AND BACKFILLING AS SHOWN IN THE DETAIL.
2. THE DRYWELL MUST BE INSTALLED IN A WELL DRAINED AREA SO AS NOT TO COLLECT SURFACE WATER.
3. ALL DRYWELLS MUST BE A MINIMUM 5 FEET FROM THE HOUSE OR BUILDING AND A MINIMUM OF 50 FEET FROM EXISTING POTABLE WATER WELLS.
4. DRY WELL VOLUME MUST BE A MINIMUM OF 2 (TWO) TIMES THE SOFTENER REGENERATION VOLUME.
5. THE BOTTOM OF DRYWELL MUST BE ABOVE THE HIGHEST GROUNDWATER LEVEL.
6. GENERALLY, SOILS IN THE AREA OF THE DRYWELL SHOULD BE IN THE SCS GROUP A OR B SOILS.
7. INSTALLER MUST GET SHOP DRAWINGS APPROVED BY THE ENGINEER BEFORE INSTALLATION.