

Proper Lagoon Maintenance

Throughout Sedgwick County lagoons like this one dot the rural residential landscape. In fact, fifty percent of homes in rural Sedgwick County rely on lagoons for waste disposal. But many homeowners are not familiar with proper lagoon maintenance practices. Improper lagoon maintenance results in problems that can be costly, frustrating and let's not forget, odorous. Hi, I'm Kelly Dixon with Sedgwick County Code Enforcement and our goal is to help you save time, frustration and money so keep watching to learn how to spot problems and adopt proper maintenance practices.

If your lagoon looks anything like this one, it has not received proper maintenance and you'll need to take action. Trees, weeds, aquatic plants and even animals can take up residence in and around your lagoon. These naturally occurring issues can affect the performance of your lagoon, by overtaking the bacteria that breaks down the waste. The result is an odorous, dysfunctional lagoon that may have to be pumped or repaired, which can cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars. The best way to avoid problems in your lagoon is to properly maintain it. Mowing around the lagoon will deter most plants from growing large enough to cause problems. If you notice plants or algae growing in the lagoon, treatments are available to kill these plants. The earlier you catch them the more effective the treatments will be. Homeowners are required to install and maintain a four foot high fence around a lagoon for safety. The fence should have openings no greater than two inches by four inches and must have a minimum four foot wide gate. Poorly constructed, deteriorating or non-existent fences also are a violation of Sedgwick County code. Remember, a properly maintained lagoon should not smell badly and should continue to serve its purpose for many years to come. So, if you wish to have your lagoon inspected for potential problems, or maybe you're just a new homeowner with a lagoon for the first time and want information, give us a call at Sedgwick County Code Enforcement at 316 660-1840.