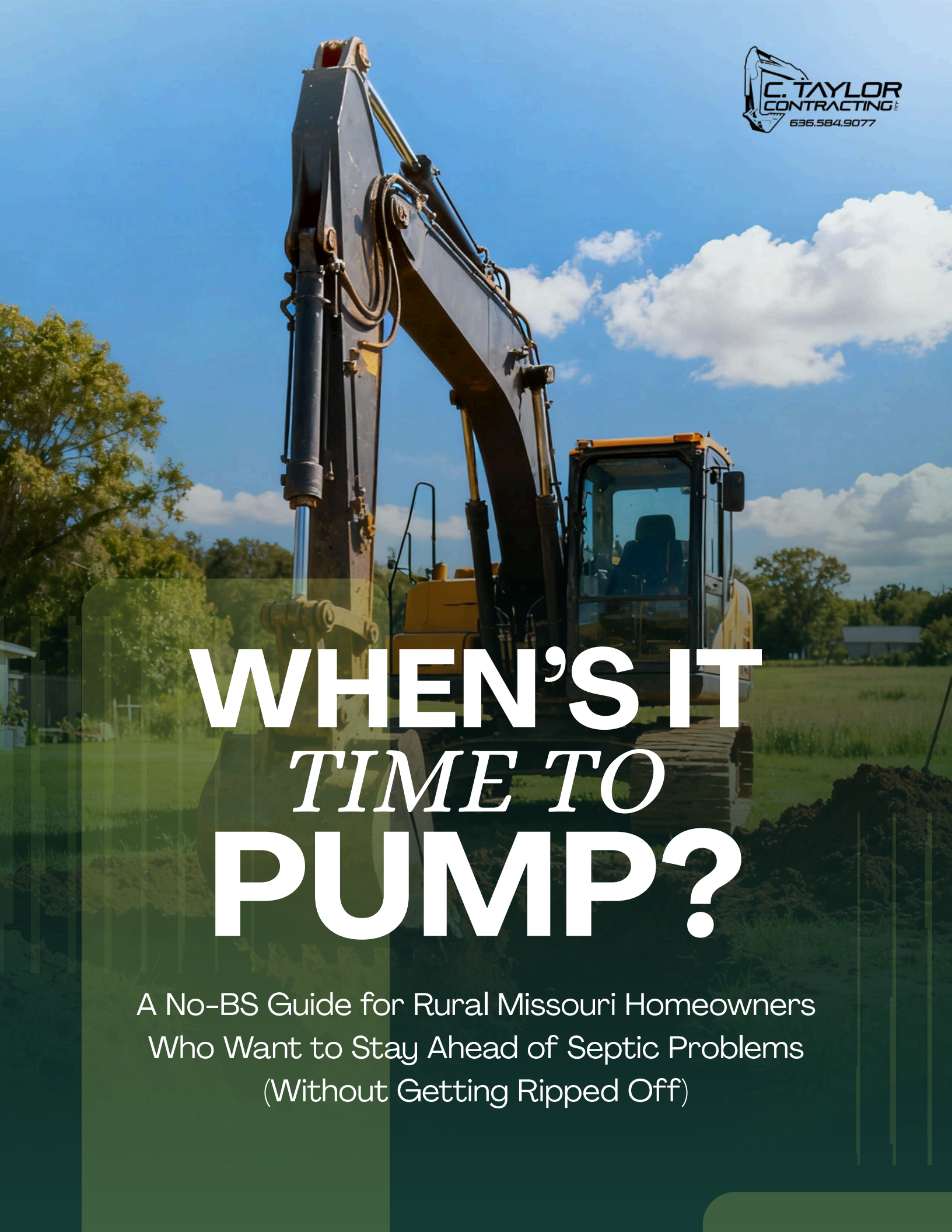




WHEN'S IT *TIME TO* PUMP?

A No-BS Guide for Rural Missouri Homeowners
Who Want to Stay Ahead of Septic Problems
(Without Getting Ripped Off)

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Introduction

If you're asking, "How do I know when it's time to get my septic tank pumped?" — you're already ahead of the game.

Most people wait too long...

And by the time they do call?

It's a full-blown emergency — flooded yard, backed-up pipes, stressed-out family, and a bill that hits harder than it had to.



This short guide will help you:

- Spot the signs of a septic issue before it becomes one
- Understand the honest truth about your system (without the fear tactics)
- Use a simple scoring system to figure out exactly when to act

Let's keep your septic system healthy — and your wallet happy.

SECTION 1:

THE “NO-BS” SEPTIC

TIMELINE



How Often Should You Pump?

There’s a general rule of thumb based on household size — but keep reading, because it’s not the full picture.

People in Home	Pump Every...
1–2	Every 3–5 years
3–5	Every 2–3 years
6+ or heavy use	Every 1–2 years

But here’s the deal:

This isn’t a magic formula. Every household is different. A family that uses a lot of water, runs a home business, or hosts frequent guests can overload the system faster than they think.

That’s why we built a smarter way to know for sure. (You’ll find it in Section 4.)

SECTION 2:

THE “IT’S TIME” CHECKLIST

If you check **2 or more** of these boxes, it’s time to schedule a pump — **now**.

- ✓ You can’t remember the last time it was pumped

- ✓ The grass above your tank is weirdly green, thick, or “lush”

- ✓ Your drains are slower than normal (especially showers or sinks)

- ✓ You hear gurgling sounds in sinks or toilets

- ✓ There’s a sewage smell near the yard or tank

- ✓ You notice standing water or soggy ground near the tank

- ✓ You just hosted a party, had extra guests, or used a lot more water than usual

Pro Tip: The best time to pump is **before** these symptoms appear.
This list just helps you know when you’re getting close.



SECTION 3:

WHY THE “STICK TEST” IS DEAD WRONG

You've probably heard some of these old-school tips:

- “Just stick a pole in and see if it’s full.”
- “If it still flushes, you're fine.”
- “I didn’t pump mine for 10 years and never had a problem!”

 ***Please don’t follow that advice.***



Here’s why:

Your tank has **three layers**:

- ✔ **Scum (Top):** Grease, oil, soap residue

- ✔ **Effluent (Middle):** Liquid wastewater

- ✔ **Sludge (Bottom):** The solid waste that settles over time

Even if the water seems to drain okay, that bottom layer of sludge may be dangerously high. Once sludge hits your **drain field**, it can **clog your entire system** — and **you’re now looking at a \$5,000+ replacement**.

And no, those septic additives (like Rid-X)?
They don’t “dissolve sludge.” That’s a marketing gimmick.



The real solution?

Smart pumping. Based on measured sludge levels, usage habits, and a real timeline — not old wives’ tales.

SECTION 4:

THE SEPTIC HEALTH SCORE™



A Smarter Way to Know When It's Time

Instead of guessing, use this simple 5-question scorecard to find out where your system really stands.

Category	Low (0 pts)	Medium (1 pt)	High (2 pts)
Last Pump Date	< 3 years ago	3–5 years ago	5+ years ago
Household Size	1–2 people	3–4 people	5+ people or heavy use
Drain Behavior	Drains normally	Slightly slow	Gurgling or sluggish
Yard Conditions	Yard is dry	Soft/wet in places	Pooling water or lush grass
Heavy Water Use	Rarely	Sometimes	Just had a party or guests
Add up your total: ____ / 10			

What Your Score Means:

- ✔ **0–2:** You're likely in the clear. Keep an eye on things and check back in 6–12 months.
- ⚠ **3–5:** Time to plan a pump. Schedule before it turns into a costly surprise.
- 🔥 **6–10:** Don't wait. You're at high risk of backup or damage — call ASAP.

SECTION 5:

WHY MOST SEPTIC COMPANIES DON'T TEACH YOU THIS

Let's be honest.

The average septic company **doesn't want you to understand your system.**

Why?

Because the less you know, the more likely you are to panic... and overpay.

But we do things differently around here.



A Smarter Way to Know When It's Time

- ✓ **We created this Septic Health Score™** so smart homeowners could stay informed and avoid surprise costs.
- ✓ **We use real sludge measurements** — not guesses or scare tactics.
- ✓ **We track your system history** for free, so you always know when you're due (even if you forget).
- ✓ **We treat septic care like healthcare:** preventative work costs less, causes less stress, and lasts longer.

When you understand your system, you make smarter choices.
And smart customers? That's who we love working with.

WRAP-UP: GET CLARITY BEFORE IT'S COSTLY

Still unsure if it's time to pump?

Let's take the guesswork out of it.

Call for a **Free On-Site Septic Analysis** and I'll show you exactly what you're dealing with.

- ✓ No pressure
- ✓ No upsells
- ✓ Just honest, expert answers

 **COLIN AT (636) 584-9077** OR

Schedule online at **ctaylorcontracting.com**

I'll show up, take a look, and tell you exactly where your system stands — no fluff, no BS, just facts.

Let's keep your land healthy and your septic out of sight (and smell) for good.

SEPTIC HEALTH AT-A-GLANCE



Know When It's Time to Pump — No Guesswork, No Gimmicks

General Pumping Timeline

People in Home	Recommended Pumping Interval
1–2 people	Every 3–5 years
3–5 people	Every 2–3 years
6+ or heavy use	Every 1–2 years



This is a guideline. Use the checklist and scorecard below to know for sure.



“It’s Time” Checklist

Check any that apply — if you hit **2 or more**, it's time to call.



Can't remember your last pump



Grass above tank is overly green or thick



Drains are noticeably slow



Gurgling sounds in sinks or toilets



Sewage smell around the tank or yard

- ✓ Standing water or soft spots in the yard
- ✓ Recent party, guests, or heavy water use

Septic Health Score™

Check any that apply — if you hit **2 or more**, it's time to call.

Category	Low (0 pts)	Medium (1 pt)	High (2 pts)
Last Pump Date	< 3 years ago	3–5 years ago	5+ years ago
Household Size	1–2 people	3–4 people	5+ people or heavy use
Drain Behavior	Normal	Slightly slow	Gurgling or sluggish
Yard Conditions	Dry	Soft spots	Pooling/lush grass
Recent Use Spike	Rare	Occasionally	Just hosted guests/party
TOTAL: _____ / 10			

What Your Score Means:

- ✓ **0–2:** You're likely good. Keep monitoring.
- ⚠ **3–5:** Time to schedule a pump before problems start.
- 🔥 **6–10:** Don't wait — your system is at risk.

Still not sure?

📞 **Colin at (636) 584-9077** for a free on-site analysis Or visit:
 ➡ **ctaylorcontracting.com**