

# Puraflo<sup>®</sup>

Peat Fiber Biofilter

## Owner's Manual



Only modules bearing the NSF<sup>®</sup> logo and designated P150N\*XX are certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 40



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## Table of Contents

|      |   |    |
|------|---|----|
| 1.0  | Classification Statement                        | 1  |
| 2.0  | General Description of System                   | 1  |
| 3.0  | Introducing Substances into the System          | 2  |
| 4.0  | Homeowner Do's and Don'ts                       | 4  |
| 5.0  | Operation and Maintenance                       | 7  |
| 5.1  | Septic Tank                                     | 7  |
| 5.2  | Pump Alarm                                      | 7  |
| 5.3  | Electrical Control Panel                        | 7  |
| 5.4  | Puraflo Modules                                 | 8  |
| 6.0  | Vacation, Seasonal and Intermittent Use         | 12 |
| 7.0  | Homeowner Troubleshooting Checklist             | 13 |
| 8.0  | Service Agreement                               | 13 |
| 8.1  | Initial Service Agreement                       | 7  |
| 8.2  | Extended Service Agreement                      | 7  |
| 9.0  | Emergency Contact Details                       | 14 |
| 9.1  | Manufacturer Contact Information                | 14 |
| 9.2  | Authorized Service Provider Contact Information | 14 |
| 10.0 | Limited Warranty                                | 14 |

## 1.0 Classification Statement

The Puraflo peat fiber biofilter treatment system has been tested, certified, and listed by NSF International as meeting the requirements of NSF/ANSI Standard 40, Class 1 for models bearing the NSF logo and designated P150N\*XX. For information on Puraflo models, see Table 5 in the *Puraflo Design Guide and Installation Manual*.

## 2.0 General Description of System

The Puraflo peat biofilter is an advanced secondary treatment system that purifies septic tank effluent to an extremely high degree before final dispersal.

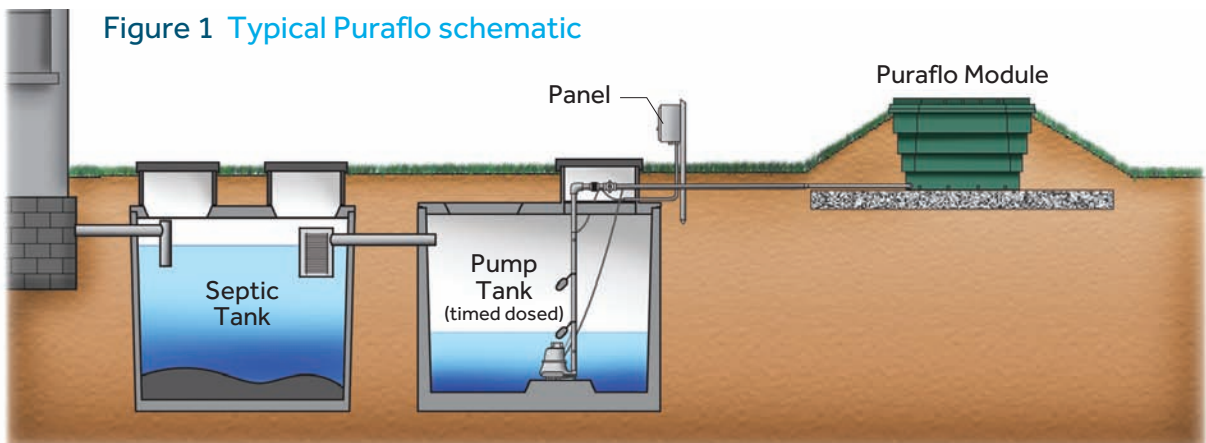
A typical Puraflo peat biofilter system consists of:

- Septic tank with a commercially-rated effluent filter, with 1/32" filtration, connected to the tank outlet pipe
- Dosing tank and effluent pump, or siphon, to accommodate dosing of the septic tank effluent onto the peat fiber media
- Biofilter modules where advanced treatment occurs due to the physical, chemical and biological processes that are optimized in the peat fiber media.
- Site specific, final effluent dispersal system

The filtered septic tank effluent is collected under gravity in the pump tank. A timed dosing system is activated by a programmable timer or a siphon-dose system triggers, which pumps

the effluent through a flow splitting inlet manifold located at the base of the treatment modules. An orifice plate is located inside the top of each inlet manifold which allows the flows to be split equally and fed simultaneously to each biofilter module. The inlet manifold is connected to the base of the biofilter module and is fed upwards to a rectangular distribution grid located 6 inches below the top of lid. The effluent percolates laterally and vertically through the depth of the peat fiber treatment media and emerges as a clear, innocuous liquid from the base of the system. The treated effluent is then collected and dispersed.

The Puraflo peat fiber biofilter system has been rigorously tested over the past three decades, in both a certification setting and a field setting. Puraflo has been tested as part of USEPA National Onsite Demonstration Projects, State Onsite Demonstration Projects, and per state/local regulatory requirements. Testing has demonstrated Puraflo's ability to provide high level treatment for biological, chemical, and physical constituents. Puraflo is a modular system with each module rated according to application.



### 3.0 Introducing Substances to the System

The Puraflo peat fiber biofilter is designed for the treatment of domestic strength wastewater from residences or other waste flows with similar wastewater strength characteristics. While the Puraflo peat fiber biofilter will process most waste produced by the average household, in order to prevent malfunctions, and to ensure optimum performance of the system, the following guidelines should be followed:

#### Do:

- Conserve water to reduce the amount of wastewater that must be treated and dispersed
- Repair any leaking faucets and toilets (very important!)

#### Don't:

- Overload the system by introducing wastewater flows greater than the design flow
- Flush excessive amounts of grease, oil or fat into your septic system
- Dump excessive amounts of disinfectants, cleaners or detergents (normal amounts will not harm the system)
- Allow storm water into your septic system (storm water drains should not be connected to the septic tank and landscaping should divert storm water away from the modules)
- Use additives (septic tank additives should not be introduced into the septic tank for grease reduction, stimulation of biological activity or other purposes)
- Dispose of large quantities of organic material through a garbage grinder as this may organically overload the system and cause more frequent pumping of the septic tank
- Flush cigarettes, tea bags, sanitary napkins, tampons, diapers, condoms and other non-biodegradable products capable of blocking pipes or filters into your system
- Dump solvents, oils, paints, thinners, pesticides or poisons down the drain which can disrupt the treatment process and contaminate the groundwater
- Dispose of water softener waste directly into the septic system (where practical design a separate disposal system or balance flows into the septic system)

## 4.0 Homeowner Do's and Don'ts

To ensure optimum performance of the Puraflo peat fiber biofilter system, the following Do's and Do Not's should be followed:

### Do:

- Maintain a stabilized/grassed landscaped area around the modules in order to prevent soil erosion (plants and suitable shrubs can also be used to enhance the appearance of the system)
- Keep ant nests and other pests out of the treatment modules by dosing externally with suitable insecticides and pest controls as necessary
- Divert down spouts and other surface water away from the system and drainfield
- Keep your septic tank cover accessible for tank inspections and pumping
- Have your septic tank pumped regularly and checked for leaks and cracks
- Have the effluent filter cleaned annually
- Test the pump alarm occasionally (as applicable) by briefly activating the test switch on the alarm
- In the event of the alarm sounding after electrical storms or power failure, check if the electrical circuit-breakers tripped off by first turning them off and then turning them back on again
- Call your Authorized Service Provider when you have problems

### Don't:

- Dig in your drainfield or build anything permanent over it
- Plant anything over your drainfield except grass
- Drive over your drainfield or compact the soil in any way
- Attempt any homeowner maintenance to the septic tank, pump tank, electrical controls or treatment modules – do not remove caps or covers as potentially hazardous gases and waste matter are contained in the treatment tanks which may result in death or bodily injury
- Place heavy objects on or drive across your treatment system
- Bury or cover the modules with soil as the Puraflo treatment is an aerobic process that requires free passage of air through the module lids

## 5.0 Operation and Maintenance

The Puraflo peat fiber biofilter is a passive biological treatment system. There are no mechanical parts with the exception of the pump and controls which dose the treatment modules. To assure the efficient operation of the Puraflo system, it is important that the septic tank is well maintained and sludge carryover is avoided. The measures recommended for a standard septic tank treatment system also apply to the Puraflo system which works on the same basic principles. To ensure optimum performance of the Puraflo system, the practices outlined below should be followed.

### 5.1 Septic Tank

A well maintained septic tank is essential for most on-site treatment systems as the septic tank provides the first step in wastewater treatment (also called primary treatment). During use, the heavier solids settle to the bottom forming a sludge layer while the lighter solids, greases and oils float to the top to form a scum layer. The anaerobic conditions created in the septic tank by the scum layer allow anaerobic and facultative microorganisms to break down (feed on) and reduce the sludge and scum volume. In this manner approximately 40 percent of sludge and scum volume can be reduced. However, the remaining solids accumulate in the tank and must be pumped out on a regular basis.

The septic tank should be inspected annually and pumped in accordance with State and Local guidelines. Depending on use, a typical home will produce sufficient sludge requiring the septic tank to be pumped every 2 to 10 years. The importance of desludging can not be over-emphasized since the Puraflo system is designed to treat effluent from a well functioning septic tank where a significant portion of insoluble solids have been allowed to settle out. The effluent filter installed with the Puraflo system should be cleaned annually or at the time of system inspection. The inspection/desludging should be carried out by a qualified septic pumper and should not be attempted by the homeowner.

**Note:** A filter is installed on the septic tank outlet pipe to prevent the carry-over of solids to the treatment system. If septic tank maintenance recommendations and practices are not followed and in particular, if large objects are disposed into the septic tank, the filter will clog causing wastewater to backup into the house.

### 5.2 Pump Alarm

The pump alarm should be checked on a regular basis by briefly pushing the test switch on the alarm. This activates the audio alarm buzzer and visual alarm light for a short period before it reverts to its automatic position.

Refer to the *Homeowner Troubleshooting Checklist* in the event that the control panel alarm is activated.

### 5.3 Electrical Control Panel

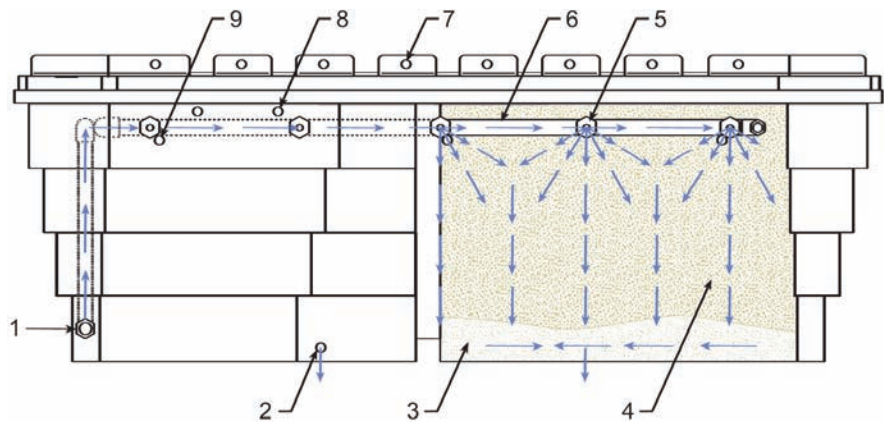
In the event of an electrical storm or power failure, the circuit-breaker switches on the electrical lines feeding the Puraflo pump and alarm should be checked to see if they tripped to the "off" position. If a circuit breaker switch is tripped, the power supply to the alarm/pump should be restored by resetting the breaker. If the Puraflo system still fails to operate, please call the Authorized Service Provider or Anua.

### 5.4 Puraflo Modules

No heavy objects should be placed on top of the system modules as imposed loads can adversely effect the distribution and hence the performance of the system. The modules can be camouflaged with plants and small root ball type shrubs placed no closer than 2 feet from the modules, however, no soil or other obstruction should be placed within four inches from the top of the module where air is naturally circulated through the system.

It is essential that the treated effluent is allowed to drain freely from the modules and that the final disposal system is kept in good condition. Failure of the final disposal system may cause backing up of effluent in the Puraflo modules which could damage the treatment capability of the system and the peat fiber. The Authorized Service Provider should be notified if there are any indications of ponding on the final disposal system and either standing water in or overflow from the modules or sampling chamber.

| Item | Description          |
|------|----------------------|
| 1    | Inlet                |
| 2    | Outlet Port          |
| 3    | #5 Stone             |
| 4    | Peat Fiber Media     |
| 5    | Distribution Orifice |
| 6    | Distribution Grid    |
| 7    | Vent Holes           |
| 8    | Rope Handle Holes    |
| 9    | Stabilizer Bars      |



### 6.0 Vacation, Seasonal and Intermittent Use

The Puraflo system will function normally when used in vacation, seasonal or intermittent homes. During normal operation of the Puraflo peat fiber biofilter a stable ecosystem exists in the peat fiber media consisting of a diverse population of microorganisms and also higher life forms. During a period of reduced wastewater flow to the Puraflo modules, the microbial population correspondingly decreases in the media. The degree of 'feeding' of the system dictates to a certain degree the microbial numbers in the media, however, the system will continue to treat the wastewater. The reason for this is that upon complete cessation of wastewater supply to the bed a number of changes occur to the resident microbial population. Many types of bacteria and fungi will form spores

during periods of nutrient depletion. These spores will remain dormant until a fresh supply of wastewater is added to the modules. Other non-sporing microorganisms will remain in a dormant inactive state until fresh " and higher life forms will persist in the peat fiber media feeding on the residual biomass present, thus turning over the microbial population in the peat.

Upon start up, when wastewater is once again supplied to the system, the dormant microorganisms and spores quickly resuscitate and become metabolically active. Additional beneficial bacteria will be provided by the wastewater itself. The Puraflo peat fiber biofilter very quickly reactivates to become fully efficient.

## 7.0 Troubleshooting Checklist

| Detection  | Possible Cause  | Action   |
|--|---|--|
| Experience slow-flush but electrical system is operational   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unacceptable level of solids in septic tank</li> <li>2. Effluent filter blocked</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pump out septic tank and clean effluent filter</li> <li>2. Clean effluent filter</li> </ol>  |
| Alarm sounds continuously and effluent level rises steadily in the pump tank – this can eventually lead to slow-flush caused by sewage backing up and could eventually cause effluent to pond at the septic or pump tank   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pump failure due to circuit breaker switch being tripped to the “off” position by an electrical storm or power surge</li> <li>2. Pump fails due to faulty electrical system or pump is faulty</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conserve water usage, reset circuit breaker and test the alarm – if the problem recurs call your Authorized Service Provider</li> <li>2. Conserve water usage and call your Authorized Service Provider</li> </ol>   |
| <p>Alarm sounds periodically but resets itself (indicating that the pump is still operating)</p> <p>Note: Some states require alarms that are latched (continue to alarm after the alarm event has been corrected) and will not auto-reset themselves in which case it will be necessary to reset the alarm manually</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. High water usage above design capacity activates the alarm float switch</li> <li>2. Leaking plumbing fixtures</li> <li>3. Leaking pump or septic tank</li> <li>4. Broken timer or incorrect timer settings</li> <li>5. Latched alarm</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce water usage to range within the design capacity</li> <li>2. Repair leaking plumbing fixtures</li> <li>3. Repair leaks in septic or pump tank</li> <li>4. Conserve water usage and call your Authorized Service Provider</li> <li>5. Reset manually</li> </ol> |
| No alarm warning – effluent level rises continuously in the pump tank potentially leading to slow-flush and/or effluent ponding around septic or pump tank   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pump and alarm failure due to circuit breaker switches being tripped to the “off” position by an electrical storm, power surge or power failure</li> <li>2. Pump and alarm fail concurrently due to faulty system electronics</li> </ol>        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reset circuit breaker and test the alarm – if the problem recurs call your Authorized Service Provider</li> <li>2. Conserve water usage and call your Authorized Service Provider</li> </ol>   |
| Ponding of effluent on peat fiber media  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Failed drainfield</li> <li>2. Media at end of useful life</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consult with your Authorized Service Provider</li> <li>2. Replace peat fiber media and dispose of spent peat media per local regulations</li> </ol>  |



## 8.0 Service Agreement

### 8.1 Initial Service Agreement

NSF Standard 40, Class I certified model shall have an initial service agreement of two years (two visits each year) included in the initial purchase price.

For all other models, a service agreement between the system owner and a service provider is required as a condition of warranty. A service provider, who has been properly trained by the manufacturer or the manufacturer's authorized representative, must perform the service. The initial service agreement should stipulate one service visit per year, minimum.

At each Puraflo inspection, the Authorized Service Provider shall (at a minimum):

#### Observe & Monitor

- Effluent level in all tanks
- Septic tank outlet filter or screened pump vault for clogging
- Watertightness of tanks, risers and pipe connections at tanks
- Operation of pumps, floats valves, electrical controls and alarms
- Pumping frequency from impulse counters and elapsed run time meters
- Peat modules for any structural damage, accessibility, adequate ventilation, excess odors, insect or other pest infestations
- Vegetative growth over the drainfield
- Drainfield area for surfacing of the effluent
- Sample of peat biofilter effluent collected from the sampling point to check for effluent clarity and odor (note: peat biofilter effluent may have a brackish to straw color from the humic and fulvic acids naturally present in the peat fiber media)

#### Measure & Report

- Sludge and scum levels in the septic tank
- Sludge level and grease presence in the pump tank
- Pump delivery rate (drawdown test)
- Dosing volume and measure or calculate average pump run time

#### Notification of Service/Repair Requirements

The Authorized Service Provider shall alert the system owner in a timely fashion of needed maintenance or repair activities including, but not limited to, landscaping, tank sealing, tank pumping, pipe or control system repairs, media replacement, and adjustments to any other component.

### 8.2 Extended Service Agreement

An Extended Service Agreement is available and may be purchased through your local Puraflo Distributor or Authorized Service Provider. The Extended Service Agreement should provide the same routine service as the Initial Service Agreement and perform any additional service required by State or Local regulations.



## Two Year Service Agreement

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Our firm \_\_\_\_\_, will inspect and service your Puraflo wastewater treatment system for the first two years from the date of installation. There will be \_\_\_\_\_ inspections made each year for this initial two year period. Effluent quality inspection will include a visual inspection for color, turbidity, sludge build up, scum overflow and odor. Physical and electrical inspection service include inspection of the pump tank, control and alarm panel, pump and pump tank floats and replacing, cleaning or repairing any component not found to be functioning correctly. The Puraflo units and sample chamber will be inspected to ensure correct functioning of the system.

The owner shall be notified in writing of improper system operations that cannot be corrected at the time of inspection.

Upon expiration of this policy, our firm will offer a continuing service policy on a yearly basis to cover labor and for normal maintenance and repairs on a year by year basis. Violations of warranty include: shutting off electric current to the system for more than 24 hours, disconnecting the alarm system, changing the control panel time settings from the approved design settings, restricting natural air flow to the peat fiber modules, overloading the system above its rated capacity or introducing excessive amounts of harmful matter into the system, or any other form of unusual abuse.

**THIS POLICY DOES NOT INCLUDE PUMPING SLUDGE FROM THE SYSTEM, IF REQUIRED**

Authorized Service Provider:

Owner:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 9.0 Emergency Contact Details

In the unlikely event that you experience a problem with your Puraflo peat fiber biofilter system or if service is required, you should contact your Authorized Service Provider. The contact details for your Authorized Service Provider can be found on the Service Data Label that is attached to the control panel. You should reference the serial number of the Puraflo peat biofilter found on the System Data Label attached to the Puraflo modules when you contact the Authorized Service Provider or manufacturer.

### 9.1 Manufacturer Contact Information

Name: Anua  
Address: PO Box 77457, Greensboro, North Carolina 27417  
Office Phone: 336-547-9338  
Fax: 336-547-8559  
Email Address: info@anuainternational.com  
Website Address: anuainternational.com

### 9.2 Authorized Service Provider Contact Information

To identify the initial service provider for your system, check the labels on the control panel and fill in the table below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10.0 Limited Warranty

Anua warrants each Puraflo peat fiber wastewater treatment system to function properly and to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of two (2) years from the date of sale to the original documented retail consumer. Anua sole obligation under this warranty is as follows: Anua shall fulfill this warranty by repairing or exchanging any component part, F.O.B Factory, that shows evidence of defects, provided the said component part has been paid for, warrantee has notified Anua of the defect complained of and the component is returned through the Authorized Service Provider, transportation prepaid. This warranty does not cover any costs to ship the defective parts to the factory, nor any labor costs and / or other costs to remove or replace defective parts. There is no informal dispute settlement available under this LIMITED WARRANTY.

Anua warrants the satisfactory operation of the Puraflo peat fiber wastewater treatment system provided the treatment system is installed and operated in accordance with the design, treatment parameters and Anua recommendations.

This LIMITED WARRANTY applies only to the treatment process parts supplied by Anua and does not include any portion of the residential plumbing, drainage, disposal system, or installation of the systems. In no event shall Anua be responsible for delay or damages of any kind or character resulting from, or caused directly or indirectly by, defective components or materials manufactured by others or to any failure due to accidental or malicious damage, plant abuse, fair wear and tear or frost or storm damage, or use or installation contrary to zoning, regulation, or other legal mandate or ordinance.

Liability does not extend to cover damage, failure repairs and replacements due to third party causes including uncertified installation or incorrect or non regulatory compliant system design or as a result of connection to the a failed dispersal field or if the system is not used in accordance with the instructions for use contained in the owner manual.

Recommendations for special applications will be based on the best available expertise of Anua and published industry information. Such recommendations do not constitute a warranty of satisfactory performance.

This LIMITED WARRANTY extends to the original retail customer of the product. As herein, "original retail customer" is defined as the purchaser who first has the plant installed or in the case of a system designed for non-permanent installation, the purchaser who first uses the system. It is the purchaser's, or any sub-vendors obligation to make known to any other the terms and conditions of this warranty.

This warranty is a LIMITED WARRANTY and no claim of any nature shall be made against Anua unless and until the original retail customer, or his legal representative, notifies Anua in writing of the defect complained of and delivers the product and /or defective part(s), freight prepaid, to Anua or an authorized service station.

Anua reserves the right to revise, change, or modify the construction and/or design of the Puraflo wastewater treatment systems, or any component part or parts thereof, without incurring any obligation to make such changes or modifications in equipment previously sold. Anua also reserves the right, in making replacements of component parts under this warranty, to furnish a component which, in its judgment is equivalent to the part replaced.

To the extent that the LIMITED WARRANTY statements herein are inconsistent with the locality where the Purchaser uses the Puraflo wastewater treatment system, the warranty shall be deemed to be modified consistent with such local law. Under such local law, certain limitations may not apply. For example, some states in the United States and some jurisdictions outside the United States may (i) preclude the disclaimers and limitations of these warranties from limiting the rights of a consumer (ii) otherwise restrict the ability of a manufacturer to make such disclaimers or to impose such limitations; or (iii) grant the consumer additional legal rights, specify the duration of implied warranties which a manufacturer cannot disclaim, or prohibit limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts.

In no event and under no legal theory, including without limitation, tort, contract, or strict product liability, shall Anua or any of its suppliers be liable to the other party for any indirect, special, incidental, or consequential damages of any kind, including without limitation damages for loss of goodwill, or any kind of commercial damage, even if the other party has advised Anua of the possibility of such damages.

## Record of System

Owner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

|                                |                                 |                          |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Model #                        | Serial # (on module)            | Control panel model #    |
| Pump(s) model #                | Float(s) model #                | Startup date             |
| Design flow                    | Pump design specification (gpm) | Tank(s) Size(s)          |
| Recirc ratio (when applicable) | Pump tank timer settings        | Dispersal method         |
| Dealer name / phone            | Engineer name / phone           | Installer name / phone   |
| Service provider name / phone  | Regulatory Authority            | Permit # (if applicable) |

### Notice of Transfer

I the undersigned \_\_\_\_\_ hereby declare that I have acquired the property located at  
Name

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I have taken cognizance of the warranty provided by Anua for the Puraflo peat fiber biofilter for waste-water treatment. I wish to avail myself of this warranty for the remaining period of its coverage; I accept all of its clauses, undertakings and conditions; I have had the opportunity to examine the Puraflo peat fiber biofilter and declare myself satisfied with it at the time of the transfer.

I request that Anua take note of the change of ownership.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date



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