Avoiding Septic Tank Tragedies

Home owners do not often think about the dangers posed by septic tanks. This may perhaps be an “out-of-sight-out-of-mind” phenomenon, but it is hard to imagine anything more tragic than a child drowning or overcome by gases due to falling into a septic tank. Sadly, however, it does occur. Fortunately, the precast industry and its partners are keenly aware of such dangers and are working every day to design and manufacture products that, not only protect our environment, but also ensure the safety of our most precious citizens.

PCANY Associate Member, Polylok/Zabel, recently made a presentation at the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Organization (NOWRA) on the topic of “Unsafe Septic Tanks”. Their presentation highlighted the requirement in ASTM C1227 “Standard Specification for Precast Concrete Septic Tanks” that openings greater than 12” be equipped with a lid weighing at least 59lbs or be provided with a locking mechanism.

The National Precast Concrete Association (NPCA) “On-Site Wastewater Best Practices Manual” further states that “Where access covers or lids are installed at-grade, a secondary safety apparatus should be used in the event that the cover is removed and not correctly secured”.

A heavy concrete lid is a good way to keep small children from accidentally gaining access. Secondary measures such as safety screens and locking devices can virtually guarantee safety without adding significantly to the cost of the tank.
PCANY Certification Program for Water and Wastewater Products

This program establishes the means by which to certify that the products listed in the PCANY Central Registry of Listed Tanks are designed and tested to ensure watertightness and structural integrity. For more information about this program please contact PCANY or one of the PCANY listed producers below:

**Keeler Vault Co., Inc**  
Website: [www.keelervault.com](http://www.keelervault.com)  
5818 Route 9H & 23, Hudson NY 12534. Phone: 518-851-6281

**Kistner Concrete Products, Inc.**  
Website: [www.kistner.com](http://www.kistner.com)  
8713 Read Rd, E. Pembroke, NY 14056 Phone: 585-851-6281  
5726 Collins Spring Rd—South Side, Springville, NY 14141 Phone: (716) 592-2811  
10002 East Rd. East Bethany, NY 14054 Phone: (585) 343-7811  
5550 Hinman Rd. Lockport NY 14094 Phone: (716) 434-6157

**Sunnycrest Precast,**  
Website: [www.sunnycrest.com](http://www.sunnycrest.com)  
58 Prospect St, Auburn NY 13021. Phone: 315-252-7214

**Zeiser Wilbert Vault,**  
Website: [www.zeiserwilbertvault.com](http://www.zeiserwilbertvault.com)  
750 Howard Ave, Elmira NY 14904. Phone: 607-733-0567

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**Contact Us**

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

**Precast Concrete Association of NY, Inc.**  
31 Riverview Ave  
Binghamton, NY, 13904  
(607) 595-1636  
[precast@pcany.org](mailto:precast@pcany.org)

Visit us and find a complete listing of our member companies on the web at: [www.pcany.org](http://www.pcany.org)

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**Serving the construction industry in the northeast with durable, economical, & constructable precast concrete products**