

# Green Fact Sheet



## Infiltrator Plays Significant Role in Sustainability

January 2016

### Introduction

Infiltrator Water Technologies, LLC is the original and world's leading manufacturer of plastic leachfield drainage chambers and septic tanks for environmental onsite waste-water solutions. The chambers are a direct replacement for stone and pipe leachfields, and have revolutionized the septic industry. They provide cost-effective, efficient methods for the design of residential and commercial wastewater systems.

There are more than 2.6 million Infiltrator systems installed and over 138 million chambers in-ground worldwide. Infiltrator chamber systems have stood the test of time with an established history of performance and reliability, since 1987. Today, nearly half of the septic systems installed in the US use an Infiltrator Water Technologies product.



*Infiltrator chambers are the original plastic leachfield drainage chambers.*

### Background

By being an industry leader, Infiltrator plays a significant role in implementing sustainable manufacturing practices. Infiltrator's technologies complement nature's own processes for recycling wastewater. For over twenty five years, Infiltrator has applied science and technology to further the onsite industry's goals of improved public health and better water quality. While we continue to make septic systems healthier, more reliable and longer-lasting, we are committed to manufacture products that also help to conserve our precious natural resources.



*Traditional full-size stone and pipe leachfield vs. reduced size chamber system leachfield.*

Infiltrator owns and operates Champion Polymer Recycling (Champion). Champion, formed in 1995, is one of the top twenty recycling companies in the country which is uniquely positioned to procure, certify, accept and process large quantities of plastic scrap. The use of recycled plastic materials goes directly into the manufacture of our products instead of being land filled or burned in an incinerator. Everyday we purchase and process post-consumer and post-industrial plastics to manufacture our products, putting over 150 million pounds (75,000 tons) of recycled plastics to better, environmentally friendly use every year.

Reducing the environmental footprint of materials, product manufacturing, and transportation is a global movement. Infiltrator recently funded a quantitative research study to understand more about the carbon footprint of the onsite wastewater industry. The study evaluated the environmental impacts of both conventional septic systems consisting of a concrete septic tank and stone/pipe drainfield and systems using recycled thermoplastics tanks and chambers.

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Infiltrator found that even when transporting the recycled thermoplastic system 1030 miles and conventional systems only 30 miles, the recycled systems reduced electricity consumption by 88%, fuel consumption by 67%, water consumption by 97% and carbon emissions by 44%.

When compared to the total number of septic systems installed each year (estimated at 400,000 installed septic systems in 2013), this could amount to a total yearly savings of 2.2 billion kWh of electricity, 1.8 billion kBtu of fuel, 380 million gallons of water, and 59 kilotons of carbon if every septic system was composed of recycled thermoplastics rather than conventional materials.

### Quick Facts

Here are some ways Infiltrator and Champion are working to improve the environment in which we live.

- We seek polypropylene, polyethylene (LDPE & HDPE) and materials (parts, purging, regrind, pellets) from the following industries: automotive, building materials, beverage and bottling, food processing, grocery/bakery, and distribution centers.
- Infiltrator products are made of 95% recycled material.
- The post-consumer and post-industrial plastics we purchase keep 75,000 tons per year from being landfilled.
- Infiltrator has the ability to process up to 500,000 pounds of plastic daily.
- Champion one of the top 20 purchasers of recycled plastics in the United States.
- Procurement Breakdown
  - 25% Post-consumer
  - 75% Post-industrial



*Infiltrator products are made from 95% recycled material.*



*We recycle over 150 million pounds (75,000 tons) of plastic per year to manufacture our products.*

- With our unique procurement procedure we visit dump sites to reclaim materials before they are land filled.
- Proprietary processing method allows us to utilize waste streams that are otherwise unusable to other recycling/manufacturing companies.
- Infiltrator was awarded the Chairman's Award by Global Plastics Environmental Conference (GPEC) in 2013
- Champion participates in many recycling organizations and associations including the Association of Post-Consumer Plastic Recyclers, Carpet America Recovery Effort, Automotive Body Parts Association, and Automobile Recyclers Association.
- Total Barrels of oil saved by recycling (2014-2016) = 1.53 million barrels.
- Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> reduced by recycling (2014-2016) = 198,000 tons.

<sup>1</sup> Recycling a ton of polypropylene saves 10.2 barrels of oil.

<sup>2</sup> Recycling a ton of polypropylene reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1.32 tons.

Sources: Argonne National Labs, DOE, Franklin Associates, Phillips 66 and Wellman.

[www.infiltratorwater.com](http://www.infiltratorwater.com)

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