

HOW WE TESTED



The Proof is in the (Faux) Poo

Our test platform was a polyethylene tank measuring about 12x15x28 inches (about 16 gallons). We followed manufacturers' directions for installing each product and attached all seven sensors to the top of the test tank. Some kits came with all the necessary cables and plugs. Others required 18 AWG stranded wires to be connected between the sensors, in-line fuses, and monitor panels. All but one product (the Hart Tank Tender, which doesn't require power) were wired to a 12-volt DC battery for power.

Using a garden hose, we filled the tank with fresh water to 4, 6, and 9 inches and then full. Each sensor was tested at each level per its instructions. To test a

sensor's proclivity for clogging, the tank was filled to three-quarters full with seawater, ripe bananas, mashed potatoes, and toilet paper. After some rigorous sloshing, the sensors were again tested. None of the sensors clogged, and all operated as they had with just water in the tank.

Each product was evaluated on what the kit included, workmanship, ease of wiring and installation, clarity of instructions, relative costs, accuracy, and useful features and functions. We also noted the quality of tech support and availability.

