

The Healthy Septic System

Protect Your Family's Health and the Environment with Proper Wastewater Management

Septic System 101

One in four households in the United States use a septic system onsite.



Septic systems process household waste from bathrooms, kitchens and laundry room.

The septic system naturally treats and purifies wastewater and returns it safely to the environment to recharge groundwater supplies.

What Makes Up A Septic System?

1 Septic Tank

Wastewater travels from the home through the waste pipe and into the septic tank. Primary treatment occurs in this tank, where bacteria digest organic materials in the wastewater.

2 Leachfield

The effluent then flows into the leachfield for secondary treatment. Here, bacteria complete the digestion and purification process as the wastewater slowly leaches back into the soil.



Avoid Disasters with Proper Care and Maintenance.

A septic system is out of sight, but it definitely should not be out of mind. General care will improve the life of your system and home investment.

Tips On How To Operate A Healthy System

1 Conserve Water

Large volumes of water entering the system in a short period of time will flush untreated solids out of the tank before this pretreatment process is complete.

Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth.

Spread out heavy water use such as washing clothes and showers.

Repair leaky faucets.

Replace toilets that use 5 gallons per flush with new 1.6-gallon toilets.



2 Keep Drains Clean

If it's not biodegradable, it doesn't belong in the system.



- No cat litter, coffee grounds, cotton swabs, diapers, cigarettes, or sanitary products.
- No paints, oils, chemical drain cleaners, solvents, poisons, or pesticides.
- No grease or cooking oils.
- Reduce use of disinfectants, antibacterial soaps, bathroom cleaners, and bleach

3 Regular Maintenance

Most septic tanks need pumping every three to five years. High water usage may result in the need for more frequent service.



Hire a septic system contractor to inspect your tank. Keep a regular maintenance schedule and record.

4 Keep Surface Water Away

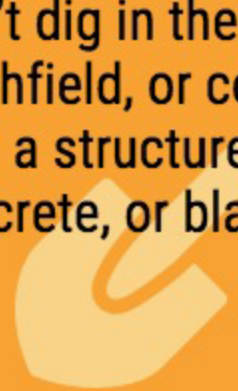
- Divert water from downspouts, roofs, driveways, and sump pumps away.
- Landscape your yard to channel rainwater away from your septic system.

5 Encourage Plants

- Grow grass over the system to prevent soil erosion.
- Plant evergreens near the leachfield to absorb water.
- Avoid water-loving trees

6 Avoid Physical Damage

- Don't drive over your septic system.
- Don't dig in the leachfield, or cover it with a structure, concrete, or blacktop.



If I suspect a problem, what should I do?



CALL



Contact a professional septic contractor for help!

EDUCATE

Educate yourself should a repair or replacement be necessary. Research your options carefully.

ASK



Ask about your options including new technology when designing your system.