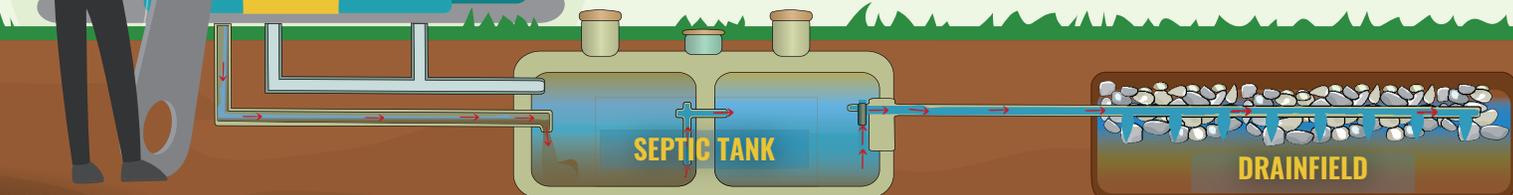


# Protecting Your Home Caring for Your Septic System

Protect the value of your home and help your neighborhood stay healthy by taking care of your septic system. Failing septic systems are expensive to repair/replace, and a septic system in poor condition could spread infection and disease.

Avoid these issues - keep your septic system in good working condition!



## Remember the 3 Ps:

### PUMP

- ✓ Pump your tank at least every 3 to 5 years. Waste and kitchen garbage disposal material can build up over time, so pumping your system is an important step.
- ✓ Have your septic system inspected every 3 years by a licensed sewage disposal company.
- ✓ Inspections and pumping on a regular basis are much cheaper than replacing the entire system.

### PROTECT

- ✓ Do not drive over or park vehicles on your septic tank or drainfield.
- ✓ Plant only grass over and near your drainfield to avoid damage from roots.
- ✓ Make sure your gutter downspouts are directed away from the drainfield area.
- ✓ Fix leaky toilets and dripping faucets as soon as possible.

### PREVENT

- ✓ Use your toilet to flush only human waste and toilet paper. Anything else can clog and possibly damage your septic system.
- ✓ Do not pour household products, such as cleansers, medicine, auto fluids, paint and lawn care products down the drain. These items can pollute surface and ground water, which supplies your drinking water.
- ✓ Compost your kitchen scraps rather than using your garbage disposal to help your septic system last longer.

### DO NOT WASTE WATER

The size of your system is based on an expected average use of 50 gallons per person per day. Overloading your system with water is the number one cause of failure.

- ✓ Fill the bathtub with only as much water as you need.
- ✓ Turn off faucets while shaving or brushing your teeth.
- ✓ Run the dishwasher and clothes washer only when full.
- ✓ Be sure faucets are completely turned off.
- ✓ Install water saving showerheads.
- ✓ Make sure your toilets and faucets do not leak.

### DO NOT OVERLOAD YOUR DRAINFIELD

- ✓ Keep roof drains and other rainwater drainage systems away from the drainfield. Flooding the drainfield with too much water slows down or stops the treatment processes and can cause plumbing to back up.
- ✓ Distribute your laundry loads over the week. Washing machines discharge up to 40 gallons every load and doing too many loads on a single day can stress and overload your system.
- ✓ Consider composting instead of using a garbage disposal to reduce the burden on your system.