

Septic System Owners

Is it time to get pumped?

Don't throw thousands of dollars down the drain or put your family's health at risk. It costs only \$250 to \$300 to maintain your septic system. But repairing or replacing a broken septic system can cost \$3,000 to \$7,000. And a poorly maintained septic system can contaminate groundwater and drinking water, and spread disease.

If you want to be sure your septic system is working properly, you need to get it pumped.

What is a septic system?

Septic systems are highly efficient, self-contained, underground wastewater treatment systems. They are commonly found in rural areas and often consist of a septic tank and a drain field.

Twenty-five percent of U.S. homes have a septic system. How do you know if you do? Here are some signs:

- You use well water.
- You aren't billed for water or sanitary services.
- Your neighbors have a septic system.

Maintain your septic system

Inspect and pump regularly. Your septic system should be inspected and pumped every three to five years by a certified septic system professional.

Use water efficiently to avoid overloading the system. Consider using high-efficiency toilets and showerheads. When using the washing machine, be sure to select the proper load size to avoid using more water than needed.

Flush with care. Don't flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper. Never flush:

- Paints
- Cooking grease or oil
- Medications
- Feminine hygiene products
- Flushable wipes



Care for your drain field

- Never park or drive on your drain field.
- Plant trees an appropriate distance away from your drain field.
- Keep roof drains, sump pumps and other rainwater drainage systems away from your drain field area.

Homeowner septic checklist

Septic System Description

(Contact your local health department if you don't have this information)

Date system installed _____

Installer _____

Phone _____

Tank size (gallons) _____

Capacity (# of Bedrooms) _____

Type _____

Septic System Maintenance Record

Next Service	Scheduled Activity	Pumping Company	Activities Completed	Comments
1/2018	Inspection	Joe Hauler 555-5555	Inspection	Sludge layer ok, may need pumping next year.

Who do you call for help?

Contact a local service provider. Search for "Septic Service Professional," "Septic Hauling" or "Septic Maintenance" businesses.

Resources

Ohio's Septic Treatment Systems Program

www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/eh/sewage/sewage1.aspx

USEPA's Be Septic Smart!

www.epa.gov/septic



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