

<b>Inspection Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary system information</li> <li>Inspection of treatment tanks</li> <li>Absorption system inspection</li> <li>Disposal/conveyance system assessment</li> <li>Identification of any alternative technology approved components             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requires additional inspection</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<b><u>INTERNAL USE ONLY</u></b>																																																			
<b>CLIENT INFO</b>	<b>Client Name:</b> _____ Different from owner? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No  <b>Client Address:</b> _____ _____ _____  <b>Contact Method:</b> Home Tel.: _____ Work Tel.: _____ E-mail: _____	<b>Inspector Name:</b> _____  <b>Date:</b> _____  <b>ISSDS Address (including municipality):</b> _____ _____ _____  <b>New Jersey Coordinate:</b> Block: _____ Lot: _____ Was GPS used? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No																																																			
<b>ONSITE SYSTEM LOCATION</b>	<b>Preliminary Information:</b> Weather: _____ Last precipitation: _____ Age of system? _____ Type of dwelling? <input type="checkbox"/> Residential      Number of Bedrooms: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Non residential      Describe: _____ How many systems are being inspected? _____ List any commercial activities or high impact hobbies: _____ _____ Describe prior problems and/or repair history including soil fracturing or use of chemical additives. Include dates and explain why the remedial measures have been applied to the system (if available): _____ _____ _____ _____ Date file review requested with administrative authority: _____	<table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width:80%;"></th> <th style="width:10%; text-align: center;">Yes</th> <th style="width:10%; text-align: center;">No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Is there a site plan or septic map available?</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Is the dwelling currently being occupied?</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>    If so, how many occupants? _____</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>    If no, date last occupied? _____</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>If there is a washing machine, is it connected to a separate gray water disposal system?</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Is the dwelling free of additional gray water systems?</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Is the dwelling free of garbage disposal systems?</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Is the dwelling free of sump pump discharges to the system?</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Is the dwelling free of any historical sewage back ups into the structure?</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Does all sewage enter the septic system and no type of sewage bypass exists?</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><b>Septic Tank Pumping:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>    Is the septic tank pumped regularly?</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>    Frequency: _____</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>    Date of last pumping: _____</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Was file review completed prior to inspection?</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>    If no, explain why below</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Yes	No	Is there a site plan or septic map available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the dwelling currently being occupied?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If so, how many occupants? _____			If no, date last occupied? _____			If there is a washing machine, is it connected to a separate gray water disposal system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the dwelling free of additional gray water systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the dwelling free of garbage disposal systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the dwelling free of sump pump discharges to the system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the dwelling free of any historical sewage back ups into the structure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does all sewage enter the septic system and no type of sewage bypass exists?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Septic Tank Pumping:</b>			Is the septic tank pumped regularly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frequency: _____			Date of last pumping: _____			Was file review completed prior to inspection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If no, explain why below		
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		Yes	No
<b>Treatment Tank:</b>			
Type of system being inspected?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Septic Tank <input type="checkbox"/> Cesspool <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Water <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-compartment #: _____			
Name the material of the system?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Block <input type="checkbox"/> Steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			
Approximate Treatment Tank Volume: _____ gal.			
Evaluate the conditions of tank below:			
	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Top and Lids	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inlet baffle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outlet baffle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cracks or Leaks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sewage Flow from structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Main tank lid opened for inspection?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liquid level below the tank's inlet invert?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liquid level below the tank's outlet invert?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treatment tank pumped for this inspection?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all portions of the tank(s) clear of structures like a deck or a driveway?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the area clear of evidence that sewage has surfaced above the treatment tank?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does water flow unimpeded from the treatment tank?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is an effluent filter a part of the system?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, does it appear properly maintained?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any other types of accessory units present?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Depth to top of tank: _____ inches			
Depth to top of tank access: _____ inches			
Comments: _____			

**Absorption Area:**

Name the type of the absorption system?

Disposal bed     Disposal trench     Seepage pit  
 Mounted     Cesspool     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Was the absorption system located?     Yes     No    If no, explain below

Are inspection ports present?     Yes     No

If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Were the inspection ports checked?     Yes\*     No     N/A    \*All levels observed must be included in report

Was a separate probe dug in the absorption area to confirm the observations in the inspection ports?     Yes     No     N/A

Is the area of the absorption system free of sewage odors?     Yes     No

Does sewage flow from the treatment tank to the absorption system without flowing back?     Yes     No     N/A

Is the area above or near any of the system components free from visible signs of effluent or sewage?     Yes     No

Are the areas at or near the inlet invert of any absorption area component free of visible signs of sewage or effluent?     Yes     No

Are areas above or near system components free of lush vegetation?     Yes     No

If exposed, is the distribution box in satisfactory condition?     Yes     No     N/A

If not exposed, explain why not: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the area directly over any part of the absorption system free of any evidence of, large objects (cars, pools, etc.)?     Yes     No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

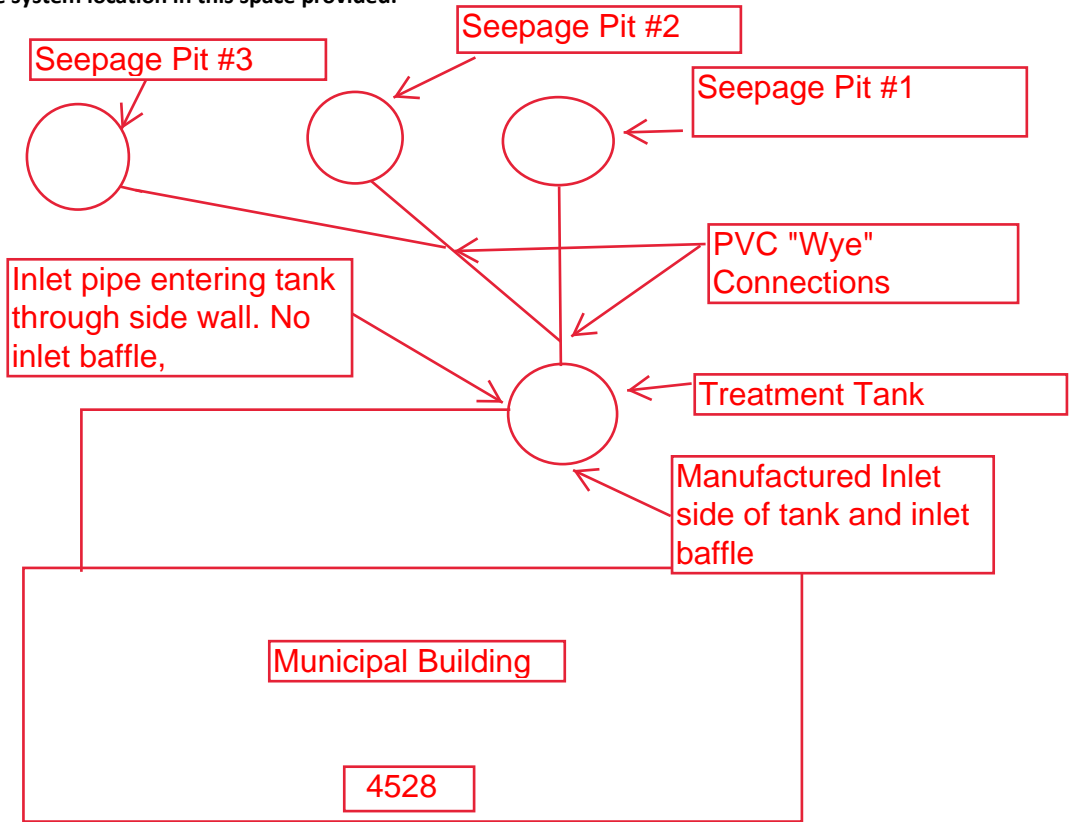
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sketch the approximate system location in this space provided:



Dosing or Pump Tank:	Yes	No	N/A
Does the system contain a pump tank?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the pump operating?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do the alarm(s) on the pump work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the pump elevated above the tank floor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the lid in satisfactory condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the tank in satisfactory condition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the tank free of accumulated solids?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Summary:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory with Concerns	Unsatisfactory	Requires Additional Investigation	N/A
Condition of the treatment tank(s):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Condition of the conveyance and pump system(s):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Condition of the absorption area(s):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Condition of any accessory components:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Health Department Reporting:**

Note if any of the following conditions were observed during the inspection:

- 1. Ponding or breakout of sewage or effluent onto the surface of the ground
- 2. Seepage of sewage or effluent into portions of buildings below ground
- 3. Backup of sewage into the building served which is not caused by a physical blockage of the internal plumbing
- 4. Any manner of leakage observed from or into septic tanks, connecting pipes, distribution boxes and other components that are not designed to emit sewage or effluent

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:9A-3.4 notification of any observation that is consistent with a condition noted above should be reported to the local administrative authority within 24 hours of the observation. Regardless of observations made, a copy of this report should be provided to the local administrative authority within 10 days of the issuance of this report

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**Customer authorization:**

I authorize "The Company" to enter the above listed property for the purpose of performing a sub-surface sewage disposal system inspection. I authorize "The Company" to expose parts of the system if required, to determine location and condition. I understand that "The Company" relies on information supplied by the owner(s) of the listed property or their agent and the local administrative authority in the evaluation of the sub-surface disposal system. I authorize "The Company" to provide this form to all parties as required.

Customer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspector's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Disclaimer**

Based on today's observations and the information provided by the owner(s) or their agent, "The Company" submits this sub-surface sewage disposal system inspection form. The inspection is based on the current condition of the onsite sewage disposal system. "The Company" makes no representation that the system was designed, installed or meets N.J.A.C. 7:9A-1.1 et seq. "The Company" has not been retained to warrant, guarantee, or certify the proper functioning of the system for any period of time. Because of numerous factors (usage, soil type, installation, maintenance, etc.) which affect the proper operation of a sub-surface disposal system, as well as the inability of "The Company" to supervise or monitor the use and maintenance of the system, this form shall not be construed as a warranty by "The Company" that the system will function properly for any prospective buyer. "The Company" disclaims any warranty, either expressed or implied, arising from the inspection of the septic system.

This form was developed as a cooperative effort of:  
 Pennsylvania/New Jersey Sewage Management Association;  
 Rutgers Cooperative Extension New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station; and  
 The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Septic System Inspection Protocol Subcommittee

**Summary**

**Recommendations**

# Do your Part— Be SepticSmart!

## A Homeowners' Guide to Septic Systems



**septicSMART**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## Maintaining Your Septic System:

### Good for your wallet. Good for your health. Good for the environment.

Did you know that one-quarter of all U.S. homes have septic systems? Yours may be one of them. If you're not properly maintaining your septic system, you're not only hurting the environment, you're putting your family's health at risk—and may be flushing thousands of dollars down the drain!

### First Things First:

#### What Is a Septic System?

Common in rural areas without centralized sewer systems, septic systems are underground wastewater treatment structures that use a combination of nature and time-tested technology to treat wastewater from household plumbing produced by bathrooms, kitchen drains, and laundry.

#### Do You Have a Septic System?

You may already know you have a septic system. If you don't know, here are tell-tale signs that you probably do:

- You use well water.
- The waterline coming into your home doesn't have a meter.
- You show a "\$0.00 Sewer Amount Charged" on your water bill.
- Your neighbors have a septic system.





## How To Find Your Septic System

Once you've determined that you have a septic system, you can find it by:

- Looking on your home's "as built" drawing.
- Checking your yard for lids and manhole covers.
- Contacting a septic inspector/pumper to help you locate it.

## Why Should You Maintain Your Septic System?

### Maintaining Your Septic System...

#### Saves You Money

Regular maintenance fees of \$250 to \$300 every three to four years is a bargain compared to the cost of repairing or replacing a malfunctioning system, which can cost between \$3,000 and \$7,000. The frequency of pumping required for your system depends on how many people live in your home and the size of the system.

#### Protects Your Property Value

An unusable septic system or one in disrepair will lower your property value, not to mention pose a potentially costly legal liability.

#### Keeps You and Your Neighbors Healthy

Household wastewater is loaded with disease-causing bacteria and viruses, as well as high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. If a septic system is well-maintained and working properly, it will remove most of these pollutants. Insufficiently treated sewage from septic systems can cause groundwater contamination, which can spread disease in humans and animals.

Improperly treated sewage also poses the risk of contaminating nearby surface waters, significantly increasing the chance of swimmers contracting a variety of infectious diseases, from eye and ear infections to acute gastrointestinal illness and hepatitis.

## Service provider coming? Here's what you need to know.

When you call a septic service provider, he or she will inspect for leaks and examine the scum and sludge layers in your septic tank.

Your septic tank includes a T-shaped outlet which prevents sludge and scum from leaving the tank and traveling to the drainfield area. If the bottom of the scum layer is within six inches of the bottom of the outlet, or if the top of the sludge layer is within 12 inches of the outlet, your tank will need to be pumped. Remember to note the sludge and scum levels determined by the septic professional in your operation and maintenance records, as this will help determine how often pumping is necessary.

The service provider should note any repairs completed and the tank condition in your system's service report. If additional repairs are recommended, be sure to hire someone to make them as soon as possible.

The National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) website has a septic locator that makes it easy to service professionals in your area. Visit [www.septiclocator.com](http://www.septiclocator.com) and enter your ZIP code to get started!

## Beware of septic tank additives!

Some makers of septic tank additives claim their products break down septic tank sludge in order to eliminate the need for pumping. But the effectiveness of additives has not been determined; in fact, many studies show that additives have no significant effects on a tank's bacterial populations.

Septic tanks already contain the microbes they need for the effective breakdown of household wastewater pollutants. Periodic pumping is the only true way to ensure that septic systems work properly and provide many years of service.

### Protects the Environment

More than four billion gallons of wastewater is dispersed below the ground's surface every day. That's a lot of water! Groundwater contaminated by poorly or untreated household wastewater doesn't just pose dangers to drinking water—it poses dangers to the environment. Malfunctioning septic systems release bacteria, viruses, and chemicals toxic to local waterways. When these pollutants are released into the ground, they eventually enter streams, rivers, lakes, and more, harming local ecosystems by killing native plants, fish, and shellfish.

## Maintaining Your Septic System:

### The Basics

Septic system maintenance isn't complicated, and it doesn't need to be expensive. Upkeep comes down to four important elements:

- Inspection and pumping
- Water efficiency
- Proper waste disposal
- Drainfield care

### Inspect and pump frequently

The average household septic system should be inspected at least every three years by a septic service professional. Household septic tanks are typically pumped every three to five years. Alternative systems with electrical float switches, pumps, or mechanical components need to be inspected more often, generally once a year. A service contract is important since alternative systems have mechanized parts.

Four major factors influence the frequency of septic pumping:

- Household size
- Total wastewater generated
- Volume of solids in wastewater
- Septic tank size



## Use water efficiently

Did you know that average indoor water use in a typical single-family home is nearly 70 gallons per individual, per day? And just a single leaky toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons of water per day?

All of the water a household sends down its pipes winds up in its septic system. This means that the more water a household conserves, the less water enters the septic system. Efficient water use can not only improve the operation of a septic system, but it can reduce the risk of failure as well. Learn more about simple ways to save water and water-efficient products by visiting EPA's WaterSense Program at [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).

- **High-efficiency toilets:** Toilet use accounts for 25 to 30 percent of household water use. Most older homes have toilets with 3.5- to 5-gallon reservoirs, while newer, high-efficiency toilets use 1.6 gallons of water or less per flush. Replacing existing toilets with high-efficiency models is an easy way to quickly reduce the amount of household water entering your septic system.
- **Faucet aerators and high-efficiency showerheads:** Faucet aerators help reduce water use as well as the volume of water entering your septic system. High-efficiency showerheads or shower flow restrictors also reduce water use.
- **Washing machines:** Washing small loads of laundry on your washing machine's large-load cycle wastes water and energy. By selecting the proper load size, you'll reduce water waste. If you're unable to select a load size, run only full loads of laundry.

Another tip? Try to spread water use via washing machine throughout the week. Doing all household laundry in one day might seem like a time-saver, but it can be harmful to your septic system, as it doesn't allow your septic tank time to adequately treat waste and could potentially flood your drainfield.

Consider purchasing an ENERGY STAR® clothes washer, which uses 35 percent less energy and a whopping 50 percent less water than a standard model. Learn more about ENERGY STAR appliances by visiting [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

## Small leaks can lead to big problems!

When it comes to water fixtures, a couple of quick fixes can save you serious problems down the road!

Check to see if your toilet's reservoir is leaking into your toilet bowl by adding five drops of liquid food coloring to the toilet reservoir before bed. If the dye is in the toilet bowl the next morning, the reservoir is leaking and repairs are needed.

Think a leaky faucet is no big deal? Think again. A small drip from a faucet adds gallons of unnecessary water to your septic system every day.

To see how much a leak adds to your water usage, place a cup under the drip for 10 minutes. Multiply the amount of water in the cup by 144 (the number of minutes in 24 hours, divided by 10). Just one cup of leaky faucet water every 10 minutes equals 36 wasted gallons of water a day—and they all end up in your septic system.

New faucets and toilet reservoirs are easily accessible and inexpensive. Choose to make a small investment for a big difference in your septic system.

- **Proper waste disposal:** Whether you flush it down the toilet, grind it in the garbage disposal, or pour it down the sink, shower, or bath, everything that goes down your drains ends up in your septic system. And what goes down the drain can have a major impact on how well your septic system works.

### Toilets Aren't Trash Cans!

Your septic system is not a trash can. An easy rule of thumb? Don't flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper.

#### Never flush:

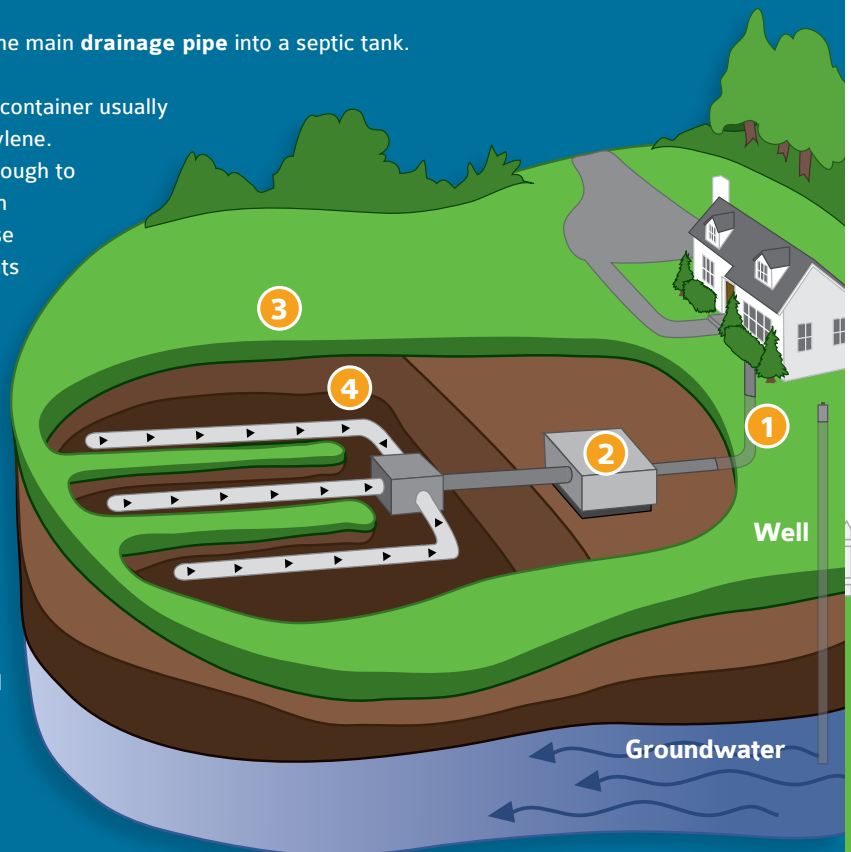
- Feminine hygiene products
- Condoms
- Dental floss
- Diapers
- Cigarette butts
- Coffee grounds
- Cat litter
- Household chemicals like gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, and paint
- Pharmaceuticals

For a complete list, visit [water.epa.gov/septicsmart](http://water.epa.gov/septicsmart).

## How does a septic system work?

This is a simplified overview of how a septic system works.

- 1 All water runs out of your house from one main **drainage pipe** into a septic tank.
- 2 The **septic tank** is a buried, water-tight container usually made of concrete, fiberglass or polyethylene. Its job is to hold the wastewater long enough to allow solids to settle down to the bottom (forming sludge), while the oil and grease floats to the top (as scum). Compartments and a T-shaped outlet prevent the sludge and scum from leaving the tank and traveling into the drainfield area.
- 3 The liquid wastewater then exits the tank into the **drainfield**. If the drainfield is overloaded with too much liquid, it will flood, causing sewage to flow to the ground surface or create backups in toilets and sinks.
- 4 Finally, the wastewater percolates into the **soil**, naturally removing harmful bacteria, viruses, and nutrients.



## Own an RV, boat or mobile home?

If you spend any time in a recreational vehicle (RV) or boat, you probably know of the problem of odors from sewage holding tanks. Learn more about proper and safe wastewater disposal—download EPA's factsheet at [www.epa.gov/region9/water/groundwater/uic-pdfs/rv-wastewater.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/groundwater/uic-pdfs/rv-wastewater.pdf) or call The National Small Flows Clearinghouse's Septic System Care hotline toll-free at 1-800-624-8301.

### Take care at the drain

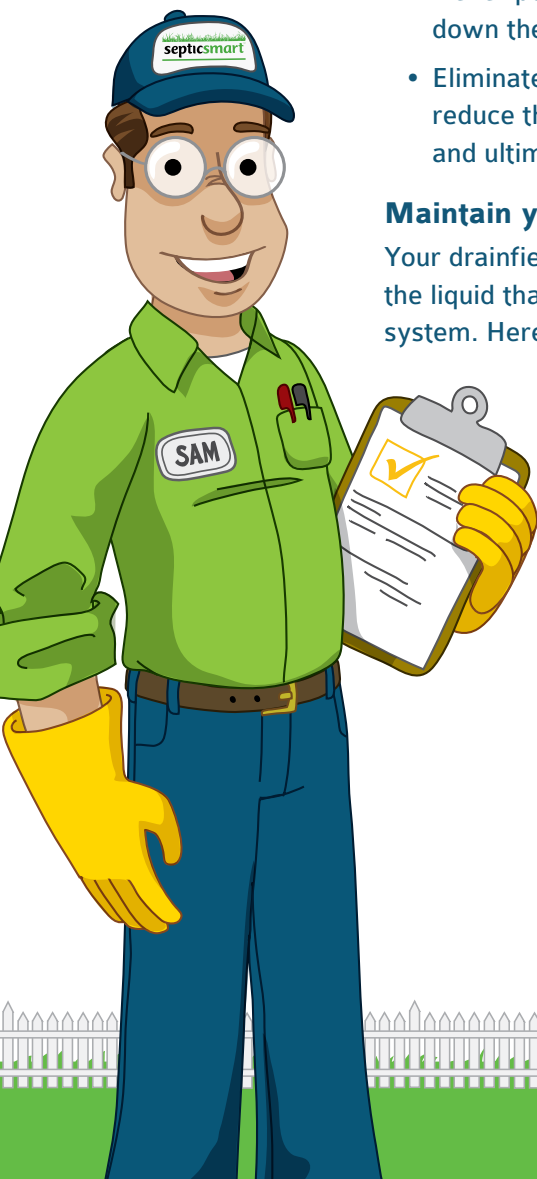
Your septic system contains a collection of living organisms that digest and treat household waste. Pouring toxins down your drain can kill these organisms and harm your septic system. Whether you're at the kitchen sink, bathtub, or utility sink:

- Avoid chemical drain openers for a clogged drain. Instead, use boiling water or a drain snake.
- Never pour cooking oil or grease down the drain!
- Never pour oil-based paints, solvents, or large volumes of toxic cleaners down the drain. Even latex paint waste should be minimized.
- Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal, which will significantly reduce the amount of fats, grease, and solids that enter your septic tank and ultimately clog its drainfield.

### Maintain your drainfield

Your drainfield—a component of your septic system that removes contaminants from the liquid that emerges from your septic tank—is an important part of your septic system. Here are a few things you should do to maintain it:

- Never park or drive on your drainfield.
- Plant trees the appropriate distance from your drainfield to keep roots from growing into your septic system. A septic service professional can advise you of the proper distance, depending on your septic tank and landscape.
- Keep roof drains, sump pumps, and other rainwater drainage systems away from your drainfield area, as excess water slows down or stops the wastewater treatment process.



## Failure Causes

Pouring household and home improvement chemicals down your drains, flushing garbage down toilets, excessive water use, and failure to provide proper maintenance aren't the only culprits for septic system failure. Take note of these additional causes of septic failure:

### Hot tubs

Hot tubs may be a great way to relax, but when it comes to emptying them, your septic system should be avoided. Emptying a hot tub into your septic system stirs the solids in the tank, pushing them into the drainfield, causing it to clog and fail.

Drain cooled hot tub water onto turf or landscaped areas far away from your septic tank and drainfield, and in accordance with local regulations. Use the same caution when draining swimming pools.

### Water purification and softening systems

Some freshwater purification systems, including water softeners, unnecessarily pump water into septic systems. Such systems can send hundreds of gallons of water to septic tanks, causing agitation of solids and excess flow to drainfields. When researching water purification and softening systems, check with a licensed plumbing professional about alternative routing for such treatment systems.

### Garbage disposals

Consider eliminating or limit the use of garbage disposals. While convenient, frequent use of garbage disposals significantly increases the accumulation of sludge and scum in septic tanks, resulting in the need for more frequent pumping.

### Improper design or installation

The proper design and installation of a septic system is essential for it to correctly function. A home's groundwater table, soil composition, and a properly leveled drainfield are just a few factors to ensure a well-functioning septic system. Be sure to do your research when hiring septic professionals.



## Failure symptoms: Mind the signs!

A foul odor isn't always the first sign of a malfunctioning septic system. Call a septic professional if you notice any of the following:

- Wastewater backing up into household drains.
- Bright green, spongy grass on the drainfield, even during dry weather.
- Pooling water or muddy soil around your septic system or in your basement.
- A strong odor around the septic tank and drainfield.

Mind the signs of a failing system. One call to a septic professional could save you thousands of dollars!



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

For more information on how you can  
be SepticSmart, please visit:

[www.epa.gov/septicmart](http://www.epa.gov/septicmart)

EPA-832-B-12-005  
September 2012