

# 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](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/eh/sewage/sewage1.aspx)

## USEPA's Be Septic Smart!

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



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