

SOUTH WEST SEPTIC

Septic Checklists

Don't Flush

- Cat litter
- Paper towels
- Cotton swabs
- Cigarette butts
- Dental floss
- Grease
- Garbage
- Diapers or wipes
- Pills or medicine
- Coffee Grounds
- Feminine hygiene products

Maintenance

- Keep records of inspections, pumpings, permits and repairs.
- Keep a drawing of your septic system showing the location of the tank and the drain field.
- Set-up an inspection and pumping schedule.
- Fix all drippy faucets.
- Test your well water at least annually.
- Keep the contact number for your septic professional handy.
- DO NOT go into a septic tank.

Your Septic System Might Be Failing If -

- There is an unpleasant odor.
- Toilets flush slowly.
- The grass on the drain field is unusually lush and green.
- There is a surface flow of waste water on the drain field.
- There is sewage back-up.

Protect Your Drain Field

- Don't drive on it.
- Don't plant trees or shrubs near it.
- Don't drain the hot tub, sump pump or the rain gutters into the septic system.
- Don't build any structures, pools, or driveways on it.

Avoid Putting Down the Drains

- Bleach
- Detergents
- Pesticides
- Paint
- Antifreeze
- Household Chemicals

Regular Household Activities

Limit laundry to 1-2 full loads per day. Do not leave water running when brushing teeth or shaving. Minimize use of the garbage disposal. Do not use caustic drain openers. Do not use water purifiers or softeners. Run dishwasher only when it's full. Make sure all faucets are turned off when not in use.

Common Myths

- I don't need to have my tank pumped; it has a pmup.
- My septic system will last a life-time.
- I have a new system. I never need to pump again.
- I have never had problems. I'm not going to pump until I do.
- Septic system additives will take the place of having the septic tank pumped.
- Flushing yeast or buttermilk into the septic system will eliminate the need for pumping.
- If the septic system appears to be failing, flush the septic tank with large amounts of water.

Share this list with your family and houseguests. A proactive approach to your septic system is essential to avoiding costly repairs.

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