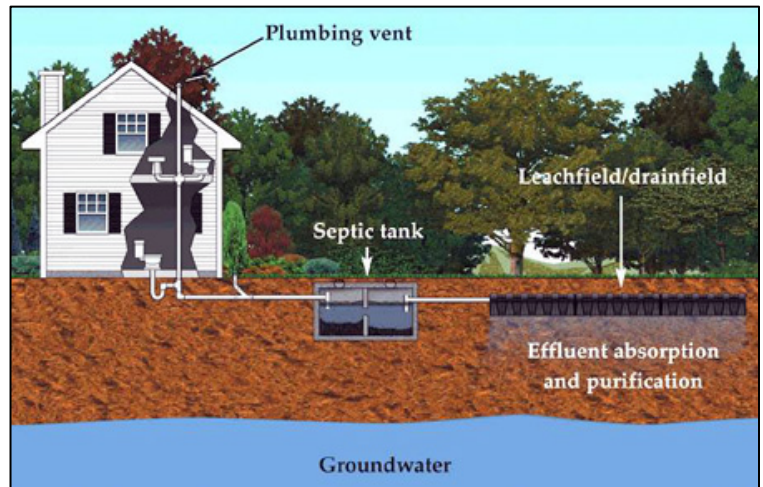


# HOMEOWNER TIPS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Routine maintenance of your septic system will minimize repair costs and extend the life of the system, while protecting local water resources. Here are a few simple guidelines.



## Divert excess rainwater from roof gutters and drains away from the septic drain field

- A soggy drain field won't efficiently absorb and neutralize liquid waste.

## Don't overload the septic tank and drain field

- Check faucets and toilets for leaks and make repairs if needed.
- Use aerators on faucets and flow reducer nozzles on showers to reduce water use.
- Keep water levels at a low setting for small loads of laundry.
- Wait until the dishwasher is full before running it.
- Insert a displacer in the holding tank to reduce the water needed to flush the toilet.

## Minimize the use of garbage disposals

- Garbage disposals can double the amount of solids added to a septic tank.
- Only use top-of-the-line disposals that grind food thoroughly.

## Don't place additives or yeast in the septic system

- Septic tank additives don't improve how well your system works and can damage the drain field. Rely on the natural bacteria available in the septic system to do the job.
- Overuse of heavy cleaners will kill beneficial bacteria in the septic tank.

## Don't pour grease or hazardous household chemicals down the drain

- Grease can clog the septic drain field, reducing the ability of the soil to absorb liquids.
- Household chemicals such as varnish, paint thinners, motor oils, and gasoline can ruin your system and pollute the groundwater.

## Keep trees away from the septic system

- Discourage damage caused by roots by keeping trees at least 100 feet away from the septic system.

## Protect the system from surface damage

- Never drive cars or heavy machinery over the drain field.
- Plant grass on the drain field to minimize soil erosion.

## Pump solids from the tank on a regular basis

- Contents from the household septic tank should be pumped every 2-4 years.
- Gases and bacteria from the tank can be dangerous to your health, so always hire a licensed professional to pump your tank.