

Septic System Basics

Septic system components can vary based on local conditions and age. Service your system at least every 18-24 months.

Some older systems are as simple as one or more block cesspools. Some may include a septic tank ahead of a seepage pit. Cesspools are no longer legal and must be upgraded upon sale of the home. In areas of elevated ground water, septic systems may include pump stations, alarms and more advanced treatment components.

Septic systems must treat all wastewater from the home including bathrooms, laundry, showers, kitchen and bathroom sinks. Diversions of any of these sources is illegal and harmful to the environment.

Basement sumps, water softener discharges and gutters should not be connected to the septic system to prevent shortened system life and hydraulic overloading. System replacement is expensive. The goal is to treat the wastewater sufficiently to safely discharge it into the environment. System component failure can allow pathogens to impact public health and cause significant contamination of drinking water supplies, lakes or streams used for recreational, agriculture or potable uses.

Why Should We Care?

Continuing use of improperly functioning or bypassed septic systems directly endanger public health. Diseases are spread by the improper treatment of human waste through drinking water, the fish we eat, and the water in which we swim. Malfunctioning Systems must be repaired before the sale of the property.

Residential and Commercial Services

Septic System Service
Septic System Design and Installation
Septic System Repair
Septic System Inspections
Wastewater Disposal and Transportation
Sewer, Drain, and Pipe Line Cleaning
Video Pipe Inspection Services
Portable Restroom Rental
Pump Station Installation and Repair

Technical and Regulatory Services

Septic 101 Training for Real-estate Professionals
Treatment System Permit Application Preparation
PSMA Septic Inspectors - Advanced
NAWT Septic Inspectors
NJDEP Licensed Operator (S3/C3, Waste Water)
HICL 00181200
NJ Public Works Contractor #639505
SBE Certificate #36305-25
NEHA CIOWTS-A 004380

Local Health Departments

Salem County (856) 935-7510 Ext. 8448
Cumberland County (856) 327-7602 Ext. 3
Gloucester County (856) 218-4180
Atlantic County (609) 645-5971
Camden County (856) 374-6064
City of Vineland (856) 794-4131
Cape May County (609) 465-1208

For More Info:

www.EnglishSeptic.com



A Guide for Homeowner's Septic Systems



**A full service 24/7
Licensed Waste Water
Management Company**

**Office: 856 358-4771
www.EnglishSewage.com**

Do's and Don'ts of Good Septic Management Practices

Don't pour any of the following in your home drains:

- Paints
- Varnishes
- Oil
- Anti-freeze
- Pesticides
- De-greasing Materials
- Medicines
- Cleaning Chemicals
- Grease

Don't dump cooking oils, fats or grease into the kitchen sink.

Don't flush inert or non-biodegradable items down sinks or toilets. These include wipes, tampons, sanitary napkins, diapers, etc.

Don't use excessive amounts of water.

Don't discharge floor drains, water conditioner discharges or sump pumps into septic systems.

Don't add a garbage grinder

Don't drive or park vehicles or trailers over the disposal field. The weight can cause physical damage such as broken connecting pipes, distribution boxes, and drain fields.

Don't plant trees or other vegetation within 10 ft of the septic system. Roots are capable of exerting enough pressure to rupture or dislodge distribution boxes, connecting pipes, manifolds and laterals. Grass is the best cover for disposal fields.

Don't divert surface water runoff towards the disposal field. The water infiltrating into the disposal field can result in hydraulic overloading and ultimately septic system malfunctions.

Don't construct driveways, parking lots, accessory buildings, decks or patios which intrude upon any septic system components.

Don't hydraulically overload the septic system by operating a home business, home school or informal day care operation. The septic system is only intended to serve the needs of two adults in the master bedroom and one child in each additional bedroom.

Don't install lawn sprinklers within 10 ft of any septic component, including the drain field.

Do know where waste from your septic sludge is disposed. Illegal dumping harms the environment

Do avoid showering and bathing at times when dishwashers or laundry are in use

Do fix all leaking faucets and toilets

Do try to distribute dish washing and laundry throughout the week rather than all at once

Do minimize the use of antibacterial cleaners to avoid killing septic system bacteria.

Do maintain a diagram of the location of all components of your septic system including:

- Septic tank, cesspools, seepage pits
- Connection lines and pipes
- Distribution boxes
- Disposal field

Do pump your septic tank. Solids are always accumulating in an operating system. The rate of microbial decomposition is slower than the rate at which sewage is added. Annual Service is recommended.

System Repair

The construction or operation of a septic system is governed by "The Standard for Individual Sub-surface Sewerage Disposal Systems," N.J.A.C. 7:9A-1. It is illegal in New Jersey to construct, alter or repair a septic system without a proper-permit. Penalties for violations can be up to \$50,000 per day under the Clean Water Act. The homeowner is legally responsible for the acts committed by the contractors on their behalf.

Remember that any repair requiring excavation also requires "New Jersey One Call" to identify buried utilities."One Call" is contacted by the contractor before digging by calling.

1-800-272-1000

It is illegal for any contractor to perform work without the necessary licenses, permits and underground utility mark out. All contractors must carry liability and workers compensation insurance and register with the Department of Community Affairs as a home improvement contractor. You could be responsible if they are injured while working on your property. Your home owners insurance may not cover their activity. Protect yourself by calling the NJ DCA at (609) 984-7910 to verify registration.

All repair activities now requires a permit. The County Health Department is the local authority in matter pertaining to septic system repair and replacement. A few numbers are listed on the back for your convenience.

Realty Transfer Inspections

Realty Transfer Septic system inspections must include an evaluation of the drainage area and all system components, a hydraulic loading test of the system for homes vacant for 7 days or more, pumping of the septic tank and verification that all household wastes are directed into the septic tank. Some digging in the drain field and opening of all tanks is needed. All inspections are reported to the County Health Department on standard state forms to be considered a recognized inspection. Only experienced & certified technicians should perform the inspection as outlined by the NJ inspection guidelines (www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/pdf/inspection_guidance.pdf).

The report should provide details on the system and limited diagnosis of any faults found. The Health Department will provide final determination of system operability.