

RESOURCES:

EPA:

www.epa.gov/septic

Registered Professionals:

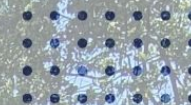
<https://health.mo.gov/living/environment/onsite/find-pros.php>

Free Homeowner Class:

<https://www.pathlms.com/nowra/courses/59159>



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HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE TO: SEPTIC SYSTEMS

**PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT:
SIMPLE STEPS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM
MAINTENANCE TO KEEP YOUR SEPTIC
SYSTEM WORKING FOR YEARS.**

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What is a septic system and how does it work?

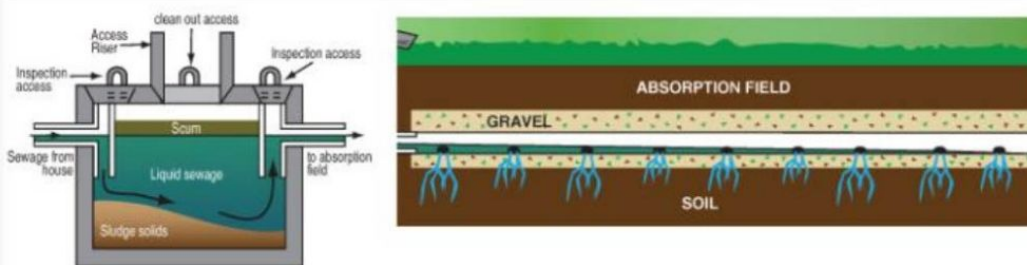
Septic tanks work to handle waste water from your home. Everything that goes down a drain ends up in your septic tank. It is important to monitor what waste is going into your septic tank.

A delicate system of microbiomes works to treat the waste inside your septic tank. Harsh chemicals such as drain cleaners, bleach and other household cleaners often disrupt this environment and can lead to serious maintenance issues.

Water that moves through your system eventually leads back out into the surrounding ground water.

Septic system maintenance is the most important role of a homeowner. Proper maintenance ensures the quality of your system, as well as the influence it has on the ecosystem and value of your property.

Failure to take care of your system can result in property damage, environmental damage, severe illness, and major financial losses.



For further assistance, contact a local septic professional or visit the EPA's septic system resources at www.epa.gov/septic

Steps For Pumping Your Septic Tank

Locate Your Septic Tank

- Whomever you hire to pump your septic tank will need to know where the access is located. Some companies will require the septic tank lid be exposed, some will locate and dig if needed (oftentimes for a fee). When you call for quotes, be sure to ask this question. If you had a septic inspection, refer to the report for location. You can also refer to the home's blueprints if you have them or contact the county you live in for those location records.

Determine Tank Size & Assess Pumping Frequency

Septic Tank Pumping Guidelines

- Pumping frequency depends on tank size, household size, and water usage. Refer to the table below for estimates based on year-round residences.

Septic Tank Pumping Chart



Tank Size (Gallons)	Household Size – Number of Occupants									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Septic Tank Pumping Frequency (In Years)									
500	5.8	2.6	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	---
1000	12.4	5.9	3.7	2.6	2.0	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.7
1250	15.6	7.5	4.8	3.4	2.6	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.0
1500	18.9	9.1	5.9	4.2	3.3	2.6	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.3
2000	25.4	12.4	8.0	5.9	4.5	3.7	3.1	2.6	2.2	2.0

Septic Do's & Don'ts

Do's:

- Inspect Tank Annually
- Pump Septic Tank Every 3-5 Years
- Use Harsh Cleaning Products Sparingly
- Keep the area around septic tank clear and away from livestock & vehicles

Don'ts:

- Don't put dental floss, feminine hygiene products, flushable wipes, condoms, diapers, cotton swabs, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, cat litter, paper towels, paint, pesticides or harsh chemicals down the drain.
- Don't enter Septic Tank
- Don't use drain cleaners for a clogged drain
- Don't build OVER your septic tank
- Don't attempt to pump your own septic tank