

On-Site Septic Disposal Systems – Tips for a Healthy Watershed

Tips To Protecting Your Septic System

1. Inspect your system every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary (generally 3 to 5 years).
2. Use water efficiently.
3. Don't dispose of household hazardous wastes in sinks or toilets.
4. Care for your drain field.

Why Should I Maintain My Septic System?

- Saves money – failing septic systems are expensive to repair and replace.
- Protects health and the environment – prevents the spread of infection and diseases and protects water resources.

Failure Symptoms

- Check for pooling water or muddy soil around your septic system or basement.
- Notice whether your toilet or sink backs up when you flush or do laundry.
- You might notice strips of bright green grass over your drain field.
- Notice a foul odor in your backyard.

Who Do I Contact to Have My System Inspected?

Call the Oakland County Health Department (OCHD): (248) 858-1280 for a list of contractors.

What Does An Inspection Include?

1. Locating the system
2. Uncovering access holes
3. Flushing the toilets
4. Checking for signs of backup
5. Measuring scum and sludge layers
6. Identifying any leaks
7. Inspecting mechanical components
8. Pumping the tank if necessary

For more information, contact the OCHD at: (248) 858-1280, or visit the Environmental Protection Agency website at: www.epa.gov/own/onsite.