

WHY SHOULD I MAINTAIN MY SEPTIC SYSTEM?

WHEN SEPTIC SYSTEMS ARE PROPERLY DESIGNED, CONSTRUCTED AND MAINTAINED, THEY EFFECTIVELY REDUCE OR ELIMINATE MOST HUMAN HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS POSED BY POLLUTANTS IN HOUSEHOLD WASTEWATER. HOWEVER, THEY REQUIRE REGULAR MAINTENANCE OR THEY CAN FAIL. SEPTIC SYSTEMS NEED TO BE MONITORED TO ENSURE THEY WORK PROPERLY THROUGHOUT THEIR SERVICE LIVES.

How Do I Maintain My Septic System?

Inspect and Pump Frequently

The DEP recommends the average septic system be inspected and pumped every 3 to 5 years by an industry professional. The exact frequency of pumping and inspection is influenced by **four** factors:

1. The number of people in your household
2. The amount of wastewater generated (based on the number of people in the household and the amount of water used)
3. The volume of solids in the wastewater (whether there are water-saving fixtures or a garbage disposal in the home)
4. The septic tank size.



Inspections for septic systems serve various purposes, including real estate transactions, septic management programs, or local health department regulations. Systems with mechanical components may require more frequent inspections. During inspections, the septic tank is typically pumped to check for leaks, and measurements of scum and sludge layers are taken. If the scum layer is within 6 inches of the outlet tee's bottom or the sludge layer is within 12 inches, the tank is at maximum capacity. Recording these levels in maintenance records helps determine the necessary frequency of pumping for optimal system performance.

For more information on maintaining your septic system contact your local health department and check for septic records and if permits are needed for pumping , or visit:

www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/owm_home.htm



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