



SEPTIC CARE SHEET

Welcome to Your Septic System

Quick Tips for Long-Term Care

A properly maintained septic system can last decades. Here are simple, effective tips to keep yours running smoothly and avoid costly repairs.

Water Use & Efficiency

- Spread out laundry loads over the week.
- Fix leaking faucets or toilets immediately.
- Avoid long periods of heavy water use.

What Not to Flush

Only flush:

- Toilet paper
- Human waste

Never flush:

- Wipes (even “flushable” kinds)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Paper towels
- Dental floss, cotton swabs, or hair
- Medication, paint or chemicals

Inside the Home — Drain Care

- Use strainers to catch hair and food particles.
- Avoid grease, fats, oils, and coffee grounds.
- Limit use of bleach, antibacterial products or harsh chemicals.
- If you or a family member is using strong antibiotics or cancer fighting treatment long term, special consideration of the septic system may be necessary.

Outside the Home — Protect Your System

- Keep vehicles, heavy equipment, and structures off the septic bed, mantle loading area and tank.
- Direct roof drains, sump pumps, and surface water away from the system.
- Do not plant trees/shrubs with aggressive roots near the bed.
- Ensure proper maintenance of your bed area - grass on bed area must be maintained (mow regularly).
- Ensure tank lids remain exposed and accessible.

Septic Tank & Filter Maintenance

- Pump your tank every 3–5 years, depending on use (when first chamber is 1/3 full of sludge).
- Clean your septic filter at least once per year - I recommend during time changes similar to battery swap on fire alarms.
- Schedule inspections if you notice slow drains, odours, or soggy areas.

Warning Signs to Watch For

- Gurgling drains
- Sewage odours
- Slow drainage throughout the house
- Wet or unusually green patches in the bed area
- Backups into toilets, showers, or sinks

Helpful Habits

- Keep a record of maintenance and pump-outs.
- Keep a record of all documents and permits from governing body.
- Know the exact location of your tank and bed.
- Educate all household members on proper use.
- If you have a Treatment Unit, ensure your Maintenance Agreement is in good standing and your mandatory yearly inspection is scheduled. If you sell your property, ensure the new owner is informed of the Maintenance Agreement during the sale as they will need to enter into a new agreement.