

Good Management Practices

Helping you care for your septic system

Septic Tank Pumping

Septic System Minor Repairs

Bacterial Additives

High Pressure Jetting

Risers / Replacement Lids

Temporary Restrooms

- Do not use excessive amounts of water if you want your septic system to continue to operate properly.
- Try to do one load of wash each day instead of all of your wash loads on a single day.
- A series of long showers will cause a hydraulic overloading of the septic tank and the disposal field.
- If you have leaking faucets or toilets, have them fixed.
- Do not discharge water filter backwash to the septic system. This may cause hydraulic overloading of the septic tank and disposal field and may cause a clogging of the disposal field.
- Do not pour cooking oils, fats, or grease into the kitchen sink. When these items cool they will congeal in either the internal home plumbing or the septic tank, which will require premature maintenance on these items.
- Do not flush inert or nonbiodegradable items down sinks or toilets. Items such as disposable diapers, cat litter box material, cigarette filters, sanitary napkins, paper towels, condoms or other similar material may cause a clogging of the plumbing and will cause premature pumping of the septic tank.
- Do not pour paints, varnishes, paint thinners, oil of any type, antifreeze, pesticides or herbicides, photographic developing solutions, wood finishing chemicals, degreasing materials and other toxic or hazardous chemicals into your home drains. These chemicals have a high potential for causing ground water contamination in very low concentrations.
- Don't add a garbage grinder to an existing septic system. The ground up food products will substantially increase the suspended solid, biomass, and hydraulic loading of the septic tank, which will decrease its operating efficiency. If the septic tank is not able to "settle out" the added material, it may cause a clogging of the disposal field. Even if the septic tank is able to "settle out" all of the added material, the septic tank will have to be pumped out more frequently. Many communities have local ordinances which prohibit the use of garbage disposal units. If in doubt, check with your local health department.
- Don't discharge floor drains or sump pumps into the septic system. This additional flow may cause a hydraulic overloading of the septic tank and disposal field and cause a failure of the septic system.
- To the maximum extent possible, surface water runoff should be diverted away from the area of the septic tank and the disposal field. While the septic tank is supposed to be installed so that it is water tight, cracks or other imperfections may develop within the tank or its piping. The inflow of water into the septic tank may cause a hydraulic overloading of the disposal field. The increased infiltration of water into the disposal field because of the lack of appropriate surface water diversions may cause a hydraulic overloading of the disposal field.
- Do not drive on or park vehicles or boats over the area of the septic system. The weight may cause physical damage to the components of the disposal system. The area of the septic system should never be paved over! Creating an impermeable surface over a disposal field will significantly reduce the exchange of gases between the disposal field and the air.



- Do not plant trees or other vegetation on top of the disposal field. These items may have a root system capable of physically disrupting the disposal field. Grass is the best type of vegetation cover because it is capable of high levels of consumptive use of water and does not have a woody root system which can physically disrupt the disposal field.
- In New Jersey, it is illegal to add a restricted chemical material to a septic system. A restricted chemical material is any chemical material which contains more than 1% by weight of:
 - A. Halogenated hydrocarbons (aliphatic or aromatic), including but not limited to trichloroethane, trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, methylene, chloride, halogenated benzenes, and carbon tetrachloride,
 - B. Any aromatic hydrocarbon chemical, including but not limited to benzene, toluene and naphthalene,
 - C. Any phenol derivative in which a hydroxy group and two or more halogen atoms are bonded directly to a six-carbon aromatic ring, including but not limited to trichlorophenol or pentachlorophenol, or
 - D. Acrolein, acrylonitrile, or benzedine.
- A restricted chemical material is not, however, any chemical material which is biodegradable and is not a significant source of ground water contamination. While the addition of a biodegradable material which is not a significant source of ground water contamination is not illegal, we are not aware that it serves any useful purpose. The addition of some chemicals may kill the bacteria which are necessary for the proper functioning of the septic system.
- There are many products that claim to increase the performance of disposal fields. Those products which contain sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, or hydrogen peroxide will not help the proper functioning of the disposal field. Products containing live bacteria and enzymes can be beneficial to the overall functioning of the septic system.
- The introduction of sodium hydroxide onto the disposal field may significantly decrease the infiltrative capacity of the soil. The addition of sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide into a septic tank may cause a hydration of the sludge which will cause the septic tank to reach its maximum capacity prematurely. The addition of any of these chemicals to the septic tank may have a negative effect on the bacteria within the septic tank.
- Keep a permanent record of all pumping, inspections, alterations, or repairs to the septic system. The name of the pumper, engineer or contractor who performs the work should be retained in case it is necessary to contact that person in the future.

For more information or to schedule a septic pumping, contact Russell Reid at 800-356-4468.

You may also obtain information regarding your specific septic system by calling your local health department.



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