



PLANNING & ZONING

PRESS RELEASE

HOW'S YOUR SEWER DOING?

If you have a septic system on your property, you have some responsibility for taking care of it to ensure that it is functional for many years. Here are some things you can, and should, do to help your system to serve you well:

- Spring and summer are ideal times of the year to have your tank pumped. Waiting until later in the fall or winter doesn't give the bacteria in your tank time to rejuvenate and create the heat that keeps the tank unthawed and this may cause freezing later in the season. It is recommended that a septic tank be pumped to remove solids at least once every three years with regular use. Every two years is even better.
- Make sure water using appliances, faucets, and toilets are not leaking. A drippy faucet, over time, can overload your system.
- Don't leave the faucet running while you are brushing teeth or washing dishes.
- Keep all vehicles (including ATV's and snowmobiles) and high-traffic people activities off the system, all year. Compaction contributes to failing systems and freezing.
- Make sure all risers, inspection pipes and manholes have tight covers. Rain and other types of precipitation infiltrating the system through missing or loose covers can also overload your system. Be careful with the lawn mower!
- Keep an eye on your system. If any seeping or ponding occurs, contact an onsite professional.
- If you have an effluent screen in your tank, be sure and remove it annually and flush it out with a garden hose to prevent solids from entering the pump tank.
- Make sure you know where the secondary site for your septic system is and keep it free of buildings and vehicle traffic.
- Keep paint, auto fluids, pesticides, coffee grounds, cigarette butts, wet wipes, diapers, and feminine products or any other non-biodegradable items from going down the drain! These things can reap havoc on your septic system!
- Do not use chemicals to "start" or "clean up" your septic tank. The best way to clean up your tank is to call a licensed maintainer (pumper).

Be proactive in maintaining and managing your septic system year round for the longevity of the system and the service it provides you and your family!

