

# Septic System Maintenance can save you money!

Did you know that as a homeowner you are responsible for maintaining your septic system? Maintaining your septic system protects your investment in your home. You should periodically inspect your system and pump out your septic tank, every 2 or 3 years.

Unlike those who live in areas served by regional sewerage systems, septic system owners are unique because they are solely responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of their wastewater treatment and disposal system. By adhering to simple and straightforward guidelines, septic system owners can ensure years of trouble-free operation with minimal maintenance.

If properly designed, constructed and maintained, your septic system can provide long-term effective treatment of your household wastewater. If your septic system is not properly maintained, you might need to replace it, costing you thousands of dollars. A malfunctioning system can contaminate groundwater which might be a source of your drinking water. It also is important to keep your system properly maintained because it must be in good working order if you are planning to sell your home.

## **Here are the top four things you can do to protect your septic system:**

- 1 Inspect and pump your system every two to three years.
- 2 Use water efficiently.
- 3 Do not dispose of non-biodegradable items or household hazardous wastes in sinks or toilets.
- 4 Care for your drain field.

The design, construction and operation of septic systems in New Jersey is governed by the Standards for Individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems, N.J.A.C. 7:9A, also known as Chapter 199. Local Health departments are responsible for enforcement of Chapter 199 throughout the state. You should always first consult your health department when:

- You are experiencing any problems with your septic system.
- You are planning any work on your septic system such as a repair.
- You are planning any additions or expansions to your home or building.

Please feel free to contact the Branchburg Health Department for more information at 908-526-1300 ext.183. Below is an EPA website noting many details that will help you make informed decisions about how to proceed with your septic system.

<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/pdf/septicmn.pdf>

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