

5 Reasons to Maintain Your Septic System

1. Protects investment in your home
2. Fulfills your responsibility
3. Leaks contaminate drinking water
4. Treats your household waste water
5. Costs thousands of dollars to replace

Not in My Septic System!

X Cloggers

diapers, cat litter, cigarette filters, coffee grounds, grease, feminine hygiene products, etc.

X Killers

household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, paint, etc.



For more information on water quality and stormwater management go to:

www.stormwaterSMART.org

or contact

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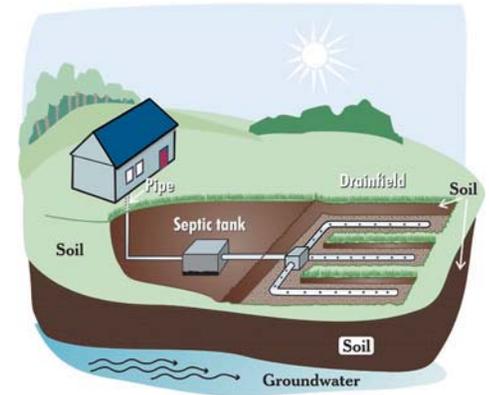
PIEDMONT TRIAD
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Stormwater SMART Member Governments:
Davidson County, Randolph County, Rockingham County, Archdale, Asheboro, Burlington, Elon, Gibsonville, Graham, Green Level, Haw River, High Point, Lexington, Mebane, Oak Ridge, Summerfield, Randleman, Reidsville, Thomasville & Trinity.

Maintained Septic Systems

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Clean Water



Please protect our waters by maintaining your septic system



The Problem?

A typical septic system has four main components: a pipe from the home, a septic tank, a drainfield, and the soil. If any of those parts are not maintained, pollution may get into our waters!

Septic systems depend on microorganisms in the soil to provide final treatment by removing harmful bacteria, viruses, and nutrients. Flushing household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, and paint can destroy this process.



Types of Pollution

Fecal Coliform:

Though not necessarily dangerous, the presence of fecal coliform is a good indicator that waterborne pathogens exist. Pathogens may cause ear infections, dysentery, typhoid fever, viral and bacterial gastroenteritis, and hepatitis A.

Nutrients:

Many detergents contain phosphorous, a nutrient that's having a huge impact on many of our waterways. Nutrients lead to algal blooms which use oxygen to break down. This causes low levels of oxygen in the lake. Just like us, fish and other aquatic organisms need oxygen to survive.

As algae breaks down, it leaves a lot of residue behind. This residue is slowly filling in our waterbodies. This process is known as eutrophication. Although it occurs naturally, we've speeded up the process exponentially. We refer to this as "cultural eutrophication."

What Can I Do?

1. Pump Frequently! You should have your septic system inspected at least every 3 years by a professional.
2. Use Water Efficiently. The more water a household conserves, the less water enters the septic system.
3. Avoid driving over your tank or drainfield.
4. If you're putting in a swimming pool, keep it at least 15 feet from the drain field.
5. Plant only grass and flowers above the tank and drain field. Tree roots could interfere with the system.

