

# Do Your Part, Be Septic Smart!

## Maintain Your Septic System to Avoid Expensive Repairs

Neglected septic systems are expensive to repair and pollute ponds, waterways, and even drinking water.

Properly maintained systems will provide years of low cost sewage service.



## Pump It Out Regularly

A septic system doesn't make solid waste magically disappear. Solids are captured in the septic tank and must be regularly removed to keep the leachfield from clogging.

A \$300 pump-out every-other year is a lot smarter than \$30,000 for a new leachfield!

- Have a septic hauler inspect and pump your tank regularly—typically every 2-3 years. This can vary depending on usage, size of tank, etc.
- Check with your Board of Health to see if there are any mandated requirements regarding pumping.
- Property owners with cesspools should be in communication with their Board of Health or other approving authority for a better understanding of maintenance and potential upgrade requirements.

## Remove the Garbage Disposal

Garbage disposal waste breaks down slower than other septic system waste and is a leading cause of septic system failures. If you use a garbage disposal, have your tank pumped annually. And try composting instead!

## Give it a Healthy Diet

Harsh chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria that make your system work. Chemicals also pass through your septic system and pollute waterways and drinking water.

- Limit harsh cleaning chemicals and antibacterial soap products.

- Spot-clean with bleach instead of full strength bleach products.
- Clear clogged drains with a plunger, a snake or boiling water.
- Dispose of paint, motor oil, and unused medications at your town's Hazardous Waste Collection Day.

## Avoid Costly Clogs

Your system is designed to handle waste and toilet paper, not:

- Cooking fats, oils, or grease
- Tampons or sanitary napkins
- Paper towels and "flushable" wipes (which are not actually flushable)
- Disposable diapers, cat litter, cigarette butts, etc.

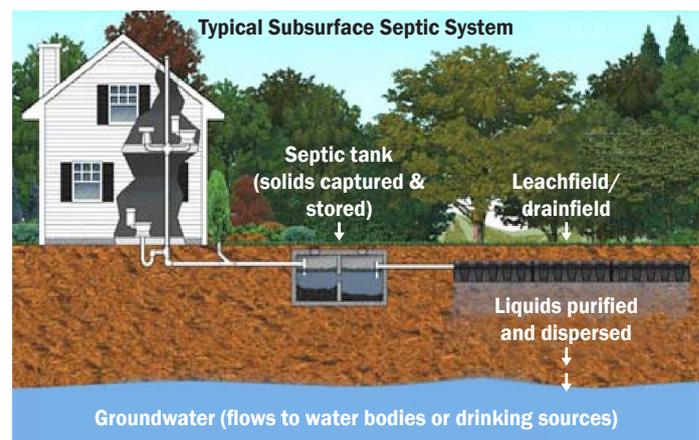
## Give Your System a Rest

Upgrade to water-efficient toilets, showerheads, faucet aerators, and clothes washers to reduce water use, give your septic system a rest—and lower your water bills.



Many towns offer rebates for water-efficient appliances, so check your town website for more details before making a purchase.

Learn how to spot a failing septic system and more about septic at [YourCleanWater.org/septic](http://YourCleanWater.org/septic) or give us a call at 781-575-0354 x300



## Learn more at [YourCleanWater.org](http://YourCleanWater.org)

This message is from your city or town, in partnership with the nonprofit Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA).

The Neponset Stormwater Partnership (NSP) is a program managed by NepRWA on behalf of member communities. NSP aims to increase the effectiveness of municipal stormwater management programs through regional cooperation and resource sharing. Learn more at [neponset.org](http://neponset.org)

