

How to Care for Septic Systems.

The average life of a septic system is around 15-25 years. Not surprisingly, how you care for and treat your septic system will greatly impact the system's life and functional capacity. Here are some helpful tips:

- Conserve Water – Reducing the amount of water to be treated by the tank and disposal area can greatly extend the life of your system. You can accomplish this by:
 - Fixing leaky plumbing fixtures
 - Keeping water conditioners and sump pump discharges out of the system
 - Installing water-saving fixtures on toilets and showerheads
 - Educating your family about water-saving practices
- Space out heavy usages such as laundry and bathing. Avoid “laundry days,” where several loads are done in a row.
- Do not dispose of toxic or non-biodegradable materials in the septic system. Avoid chemicals (including bleach), diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons, paper towels, cat litter and cigarette filters.
- Do not plant trees or bushes over or near your septic system. The roots may clog your disposal area or dislodge the pipes.
- Do not drive over your septic with vehicles or heavy equipment. Keep this in mind when installing pools, patios, decks or other improvements.
- Pump your system on a regular basis (at least once every 2-3 years).
- **Preventative maintenance is the key!** Waiting until the system backs up or overflows on to the ground is too late. By then, the system is already damaged.