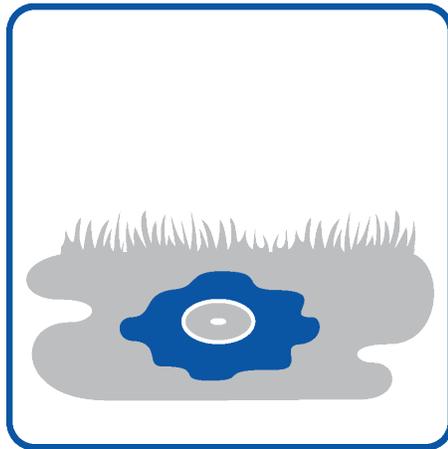


Is Your Septic System Failing?

On-Site Septic Facilities, also known as septic systems, are systems designed to treat and dispose of wastewater effluent on the same property that produces the wastewater, hence the term “on-site.” When septic systems begin to fail, not only do they not function properly, but they can damage your property and are costly to replace. The key is to catch the warning signs early on.

Signs of a failing septic system:



Standing water or damp spots near your septic tank or drainfield



Water and sewage from toilets, drains and sinks are backing up into your home



Your bathtubs, showers and sinks are draining slowly



Gurgling sounds in your plumbing system



Bad odors around your septic tank or drainfield

What to Avoid

Using cleaning products on toilets, sinks or baths that kill bacteria

- Look at the warning label: Caution means the product will have little effect. Warning means limited use, and Danger means the chemical will kill the bacteria

Using septic system additives

- Many have not been proven to be beneficial to system performance
- Can re-suspend particles that are settled at the bottom, potentially harming downstream components

Pouring excessive fats, oils and grease down the drain

- Be mindful to limit the amount of fats, oils and grease going down the drain
- Fats separate in water resulting in excessive scum accumulation but are non-toxic to the system
- Oils have trouble separating in water but are non-toxic to the system
- Grease is toxic to the wastewater system. Moisturizers, bath oils and solid material on pans are some examples.

Using garbage disposals

- Pumping is required 1-2 years sooner
- Organic matter has not been digested, so it will take longer to break down

Pouring paints, solvents and unused medicine down the drain

- Can kill microbes living in the system
- Increases maintenance due to fewer microbes breaking down solids

Doing multiple loads of laundry a day

- Causes hydraulic overloading in the septic system and more water than the system can handle
- Follow directions on detergents and bleach to avoid over usage

Flushing excessive or treated toilet paper down the drain

- Causes faster sludge build up
- Toilet paper containing moisturizers may result in excessive scum accumulation

Flushing wet wipes

- Causes faster sludge build up
- Toilet paper containing moisturizers may result in excessive scum accumulation

For more information, contact:

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Funding provided by in part by a Texas Coastal Management Program Grant by the Texas Land Commissioner pursuant to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Award No. NA17NOS4190139 and through a Clean Water Act nonpoint source grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



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