

# Maintenance Tips for a Longer Lasting Septic System

Regular maintenance and upkeep of your septic system is crucial to ensure its proper function and longevity. Not maintaining your septic system can result in economic and ecological harm to your local environment and property. The following are standard maintenance practices that will help keep your system healthy:

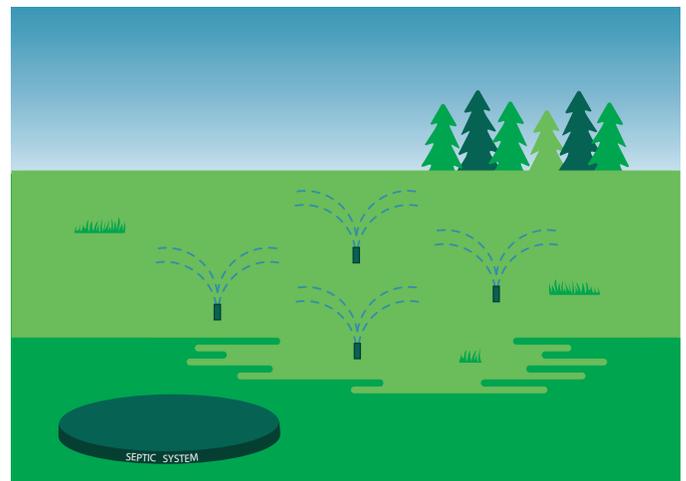


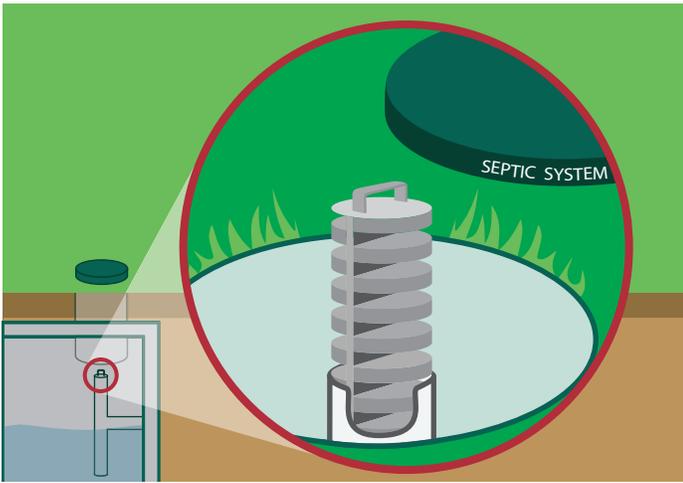
## Regular Septic Tank Pumping

- Contact a septic service technician to measure the level of solids in your tank.
- Pump out septic tanks every 3-5 years or when total solids in the tank reach 25-33% of tank capacity.
- Make sure pumping is done during dry seasons to reduce the risk of tank flotation.

## Maintain Your Drainfield/Sprayfield

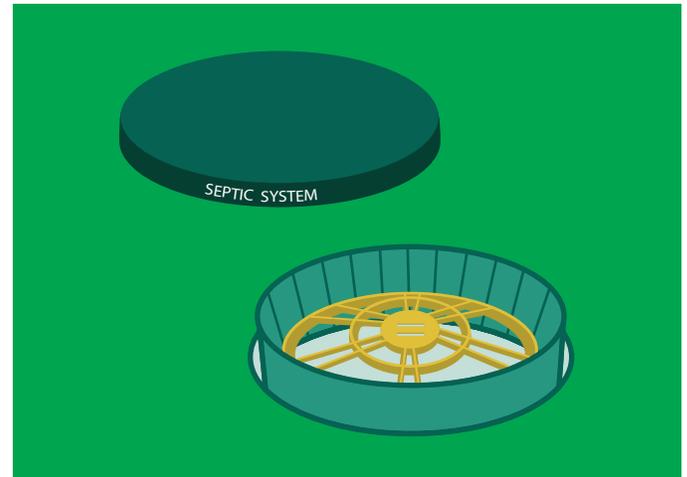
- Never park or drive on your drainfield/sprayfield to ensure that it continues to function properly.
- Establish a healthy grass cover around your drainfield/sprayfield to help uptake moisture and nutrients, remove contaminants and stabilize soil.
- Plant trees and other woody vegetation far enough away from your tanks and drainfield/sprayfield to keep roots from growing into your septic system.
- Divert rainwater away from your tanks and drainfield/sprayfield to keep the soil surrounding the system from becoming too saturated and not allowing water to properly flow out of it.





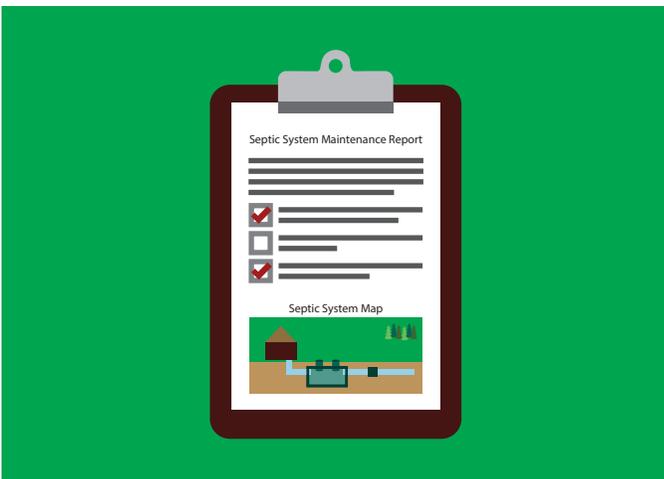
## Clean Effluent Screens

- Conventional septic systems have effluent screens installed at the septic tank outlet to protect the drainfield by preventing solids from leaving the tank.
- Wash these screens directly over the inlet compartment of the septic tank every 1-2 years.



## Tank Accessibility

- Having a readily accessible septic tank lid will make performing maintenance easier.
- Adding a septic tank riser can make locating, inspecting and pumping your septic tank more convenient.
- Lids and risers must be properly secured to prevent unwanted access by children and animals.
- Your septic tank access ports should be free of encroachment.



## Keep Detailed Maintenance Records

- It is important to keep detailed records of your septic system to help track scheduled and unscheduled maintenance (see pages 17-18).
- Having a sketch of where your system is located can also save you time and money during service visits.

### For more information, contact:

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