

Caring For Your Septic System



Learn the **Dos and Don'ts** of caring for septic systems, as well as the **warning signs** of a failing system.

Septic systems must be maintained regularly to ensure proper functionality. Failing systems can:

- Be extremely detrimental to your health
- Degrade the environment
- Reduce the value of property
- Be expensive to repair
- Put water supply users at risk

Warning Signs of a Failing Septic System:

- Sewage surfacing on drain field
- Sewage back-ups in the house
- Green, lush growth over the drain field
- Slow-draining sinks, toilets, and drains
- Sewage odors on the property

SEPTIC SYSTEM DO'S AND DON'TS

DO:



- Get your tank inspected and pumped every 2-3 years.
- Conserve water by repairing water leaks and using water-saving features in shower-heads, faucets, and toilets.
- Stagger the use of water-generating appliances.
- Be aware of the location of your septic system and drain field.
- Divert roof drains, sump pump drains, and run-off water away from your septic system.
- Use harmful chemicals such as bleach and cleaners sparingly. Dispose of hazardous household chemicals properly.

DON'T:



- Drive or park over the septic system.
- Allow roots from trees and shrubs to damage drain lines.
- Schedule repairs to septic system without obtaining a health department permit.
- Use commercial septic tank additives.
- Flush non-degradable products like grease, wipes, and plastics.
- Pour grease, oils, or coffee grounds down the sink or toilet.



Contact Us:

Dover Board of Health

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