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

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

Maintain Your Drainfield

- Your drainfield removes contaminants from the liquid that emerges from your septic tank.
- Never park or drive on your drainfield to make sure it functions properly.
- A healthy grass cover will help uptake moisture and nutrients while stabilizing the soil.
- Plant trees and other woody vegetation far enough away from your tanks and drainfield to keep roots from growing into your septic system.
- Diverting rainwater away from your tanks and drainfield will keep the soil surrounding the system from becoming too saturated and not allowing water to properly flow out of it.





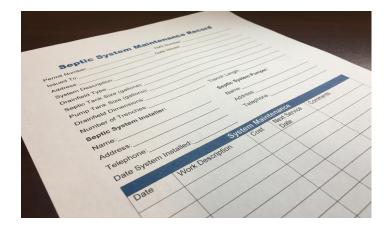
Clean Effluent Screens

- Some systems have effluent screens installed at the septic tank outlet to protect the drainfield by trapping solids trying to leave 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 system 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 unauthorized access.
- Your septic tank access ports should be free of encroachment.





Keep Detailed Maintenance Records

- It is important to keep a detailed record of all inspections, pumpouts, permits, repairs and any other maintenance on your system.
- Having a sketch of where your system is located can also save you both time and money during service visits.

For more information, contact:

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