

THINGS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR SYSTEM FAIL!

- Household toxics and cleaners

- Toxics can kill the organisms that digest and treat waste.



- Hot tubs

- Your septic system was not designed to handle large quantities of water from your hot tub.



- Water purification systems

- They cause agitation of solids and excess flow to the drain field.



- Garbage disposals

- Using one can significantly increase the accumulation of sludge and scum in your septic tank, resulting in the need for more frequent pumping.



- Improper design or installation

- Your system needs to fit your house.
- Bad installation can lead to failure.

SIGNS OF A FAILING SYSTEM!

- Pooling water or muddy soil around your septic system
- Your toilet or sink backs up when you flush or do laundry
- Strips of bright green grass over the drain field
- A foul odor is emitted
- Gurgling sounds in the plumbing system



Know where it flows!



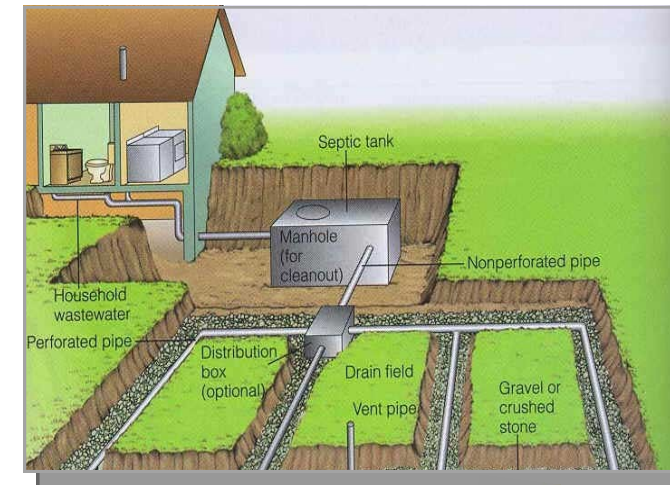
City of Franklin
Stormwater Utility
2851 N. Morton Street



Maintaining Your Septic System

Did you know...

...that as a homeowner you're responsible for maintaining your septic system?



~Four easy things you can do~

- Pump Frequently
- Use Water Efficiently
- Watch Your Drain
- Care For Your Drain Field

WHY?

Saves You Money

Much like not changing your car's engine oil, not pumping your tank may cost you a new septic system, which can be more expensive than replacing a car! Replacing the entire system, on average, can cost between \$8,000-\$25,000. Failing septic systems are expensive to repair or replace and poor maintenance is often the culprit.



Protects Your Health

The safe disposal of sewage prevents the spread of infection and disease, and protects groundwater resources. Inadequately treated sewage can be a cause of groundwater contamination, posing a significant threat to wells and drinking water.



- DON'T drive or park vehicles on any part of your septic system.
- DON'T stockpile snow or soil on your drain field.
- DON'T allow downspouts to drain onto your drain field.
- DON'T enter a septic tank chamber.
- DON'T empty water from swimming pools or hot tubs into your septic system.
- DON'T treat your system like a garbage can.
- DON'T drain your water softener or sump pump to your septic system.
- DON'T use chemicals to clean or "sweeten" your system.
- DON'T use a kitchen garbage disposal unit.
- DON'T put toxic household wastes down the drain.

HOW TO MAINTAIN!

Know where your tank is located!

The tank can be found by gently tapping a steel rod into the ground starting 10 feet from the point where the pipe leaves the house or by waiting for a light snowfall and observing where the snow melts first.

Should I use additives?

Septic tanks already contain the microbes they need for effective treatment. Periodic pumping is a much better way to ensure a safe and effective system. You should have your septic system pumped every 3-5 years. **SAVE YOUR MONEY!**

