



Nash County Public Health
EveryWhere, EveryDay, Everybody

Nash County Health Department

Environmental Health

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Septic System Preventative Maintenance

- ✓ Check the Tank of your toilets. Make sure there is at least 1” between the top of the overflow pipe and the surface of the water in your toilet tank. This water loss will **not** be visible in the bowl. **Do not bend the float rod to adjust the water level. Properly adjust the water level.**
- ✓ Check your toilet to make sure your flapper/stopper or chain does not get hung up after some flushes. Make sure it seats and seals and is not hindered by debris. This water movement may not be visible in the toilet bowl. You can use food coloring to check for this kind of leak.
- ✓ Replace the toilet valve and/or stopper if needed. Make sure the new ones are set and function properly. You can get these from a hardware store. They are inexpensive.
- ✓ Do not allow water treatment systems to discharge into your septic system. (backwash from water softeners, RO filters, etc.)
- ✓ Repair faucets that drip or slowly run.
- ✓ Distribute clothes washing. A typical Washer uses 25 gallons of water during a wash cycle and 25 gallons of water for a rinse cycle. Five loads of clothes on Saturday is 250 gallons of water. Consider a front loading washer to conserve water.
- ✓ Improve surface drainage by installing swales, sloping area to shed water, and installing subsurface drains or ditches. Do not damage your septic system or disturb soil covering your septic system.
- ✓ Direct gutter downspout water away from septic system. Install gutters to protect the septic area if gutters are not on the home.
- ✓ Replace old toilets with new 1.6 Gallon flush toilets and make sure the water level in the tank is set properly.
- ✓ Replace old shower heads with new 2.5 gpm heads.
- ✓ Limit use of large garden tubs and showers with multiple shower heads.
- ✓ **If you hire a plumber** to check for water leaks make sure he checks for running toilets, toilets that hang and dripping faucets that add extra water to your septic system. Plumbing leaks under your home may harm your home, but will likely not harm your septic system.
- ✓ Pumping your septic tank is a maintenance activity. Pumping removes solids, oils, and grease that collect and prevents them from clogging your leachfield. Pumping also can give your leachfield time to rest or recover. Pump your septic system every 3 to 5 years as maintenance. **Do Not** remove your effluent filter. Clean it and put it back in place.

Call Nash County Environmental Health with questions

Do not underestimate the importance of finding water losses. Even a trickle, 24 hours a day, can add significant water to your septic system in addition to normal usage and rainfall