

WHY THINK ABOUT YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM?

Regular maintenance prevents:

- Messy backups into your home
- Costly repairs for you
- Potential health hazard for your family
- Poor water quality in our waterways
- Contamination of drinking water sources

RECOGNIZE TROUBLE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

Warning signs your septic system may be failing:

- Septic system has not been inspected/pumped in the past five years
- A wet area or standing water is present above the drainfield
- Very lush growth of grass in one location
- Septic odors occur in the house, above the tank and drainfield, or escape from the vent pipe
- Toilets run slowly or back up
- Raw sewage floods into your house

Athens-Clarke County Septic System Education

706-613-3795

www.accgov.com/septic

- General information about septic system education
- Referral to agencies that deal with septic system issues
- Waterway testing

Clarke County Health Department Environmental Health Section

189 Paradise Boulevard

Athens, GA 30607

706-583-2658

Fax: 706-583-2668

www.georgiaeh.us

Handles septic system:

- Subdivision reviews
- Commercial & residential plan reviews
- Site evaluations
- Complaint investigations of repairs
- Existing system evaluations
- Permits for system construction
- Septic system installation inspections



TIME TO GET PUMPED?

A GUIDE TO
PROPER CARE
OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

You use your home septic system every day.
How often do you think about it?



1. KNOW YOUR SYSTEM

Septic tank sizes vary

How many gallons does yours hold?

_____ 750	_____ 1000
_____ 1500	_____ Other

Location

Know where your system is located.

Do not drive, install plants, add new construction, or direct downspouts over the septic system.

How old is your system?

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the average life of a septic system is 20 years.

4 WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

accgov.com/septic · 706-613-3795



3. TOILETS & SINKS ARE NOT TRASH CANS

Septic systems treat human waste and wastewater from toilets, showers, sinks, dishwashers, etc.... not garbage.

Additives and enzymes

These do not prevent the need for recommended maintenance and pumping schedules.

Pee, poop & toilet paper

These three 'P's are all that should go down the toilet.

Garbage disposals

Their use is not recommended, as they can double the amount of solids in wastewater.

It is the homeowner's responsibility to manage their wastewater.



2. USE WATER WISELY

Don't overload the system

Using more water than the soil can absorb leads to failure.

Conserve water

Fix leaks and drips. Replace old fixtures with new "low flow" types.

Reduce the flow through the tank

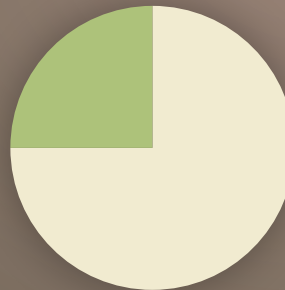
This allows more time for solids to settle out.

Limit water use during rain

The drainfield is saturated, reducing the absorption rate.

WHAT IS A SEPTIC SYSTEM?

It is an on-site sewage management system that includes an underground tank and drainfield



~25%
of Athens residents
use septic systems

You maintain your car. Maintain your septic system. Failure can be messy and costly.



4. REGULAR & PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE IS KEY

Check every 3-5 years*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends septic systems be inspected and pumped.

Failure is not an option

Do not wait for the system to fail before pumping. By then it is usually too late and repairs are more costly.

Certified professional

Hire only certified professionals to inspect, pump, and repair your septic system.

*Depending on size, number in household, and water use