

SEPTIC SYSTEM TIPS

Excess water makes your septic system work harder

- Ensure usage matches septic capacity (e.g. a 4-person septic design cannot handle 12 renters).
- Conserve water and fix leaks.
- Divert storm drains or basement pumps away from your system.
- Reduce garbage disposal use by composting kitchen scraps.

Foreign items can clog your septic system and cause failure

- Avoid flushing bulky items like paper towels and feminine products or fats and greases down the drain.

Harmful substances can negatively impact your system and lake

- Avoid pouring chemicals or unnecessary additives down your drain or toilet. Bleach can kill the bacteria in the tank.

Protect your leach field for optimal system performance

- Operate heavy machinery away from your leach field.
- Keep trees from growing on or near your leach field.
- Direct runoff away from the leach field so the area does not oversaturate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Be proactive about your septic system's health. Waiting for system failure guarantees a costly bill.

Watch for these warning signs: sewage odors, slow flushes, or visible sewage seepages near the leach field.

For more information, contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Water Division, Subsurface Systems Bureau

ONLINE:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/ssb/>

MAIL:

29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

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(603) 271-3501

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNING COMMISSION

www.snhpc.org



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HELP PROTECT PLEASANT LAKE



**Southern New
Hampshire Planning
Commission Presents**

Tips for Responsible Septic System Maintenance

SEPTIC SYSTEM INSTALLATION

Your septic system should be properly sized for its intended use, depending on household size and use of garbage disposals. Typically, a 3-bedroom house requires a 1,000 gallon tank.

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Pump out your system every 2-3 years (4 if seasonal).

Pump more frequently if you use a garbage disposal.

Properly designed, installed, and maintained systems last 20+ years before replacement is needed.

Call a professional to inspect your system if it is older than 20 years.

SEPTIC SYSTEM FAILURE

Failing septic systems can contaminate surface and ground water with nutrients, chemicals, and pathogens, and may be contributing nutrients that stimulate algal blooms in surface waters.

Untreated household waste can be harmful to your family's health and to Pleasant Lake.

