

## **Septic System Basics**

Septic system components can vary based on local conditions and age.

Some older systems are as simple as one or more block cesspools and seepage pits. Some may include a septic tank ahead of the cesspool/seepage pit.

In areas of elevated ground water, they may include pump stations, alarms and more advanced treatment components.

Septic systems must treat all wastewater from the home including bathrooms, laundry, showers, kitchen and bathroom sinks. Diversions of any of these sources is illegal and harmful to the environment.



Basement sumps, water softener discharges and gutters should not be connected to the septic system to prevent shortened system life and hydraulic overloading. System replacement is expensive. The goal is to treat the wastewater sufficiently to safely discharge it into the environment. System component failure can allow pathogens to impact public health and cause significant contamination of drinking water supplies, lakes or streams used for recreational, agriculture or potable uses.

## **Why Should I Care?**

Continuing use of improperly functioning or bypassed septic systems directly endanger public health. Typhoid fever, dysentery and diarrhea may be spread by the improper treatment of human waste. No one wants to come in contact with waste either through drinking water, the fish we eat or the water in which we swim.

## **Residential and Commercial Services include:**

- Septic System Design and Installation
- Septic System Maintenance Programs
- Septic System Repair, Restoration and Installation
- Certified Residential Septic System Inspections
- Wastewater Disposal and Transportation
- Sewer, Drain and Pipe Line Cleaning
- Video Pipe Inspection Services
- Portable Restroom Rental
- Pump Station Installation and Repair
- Demolition • Paving • Excavation • Site Drainage

## **Technical and Regulatory Services**

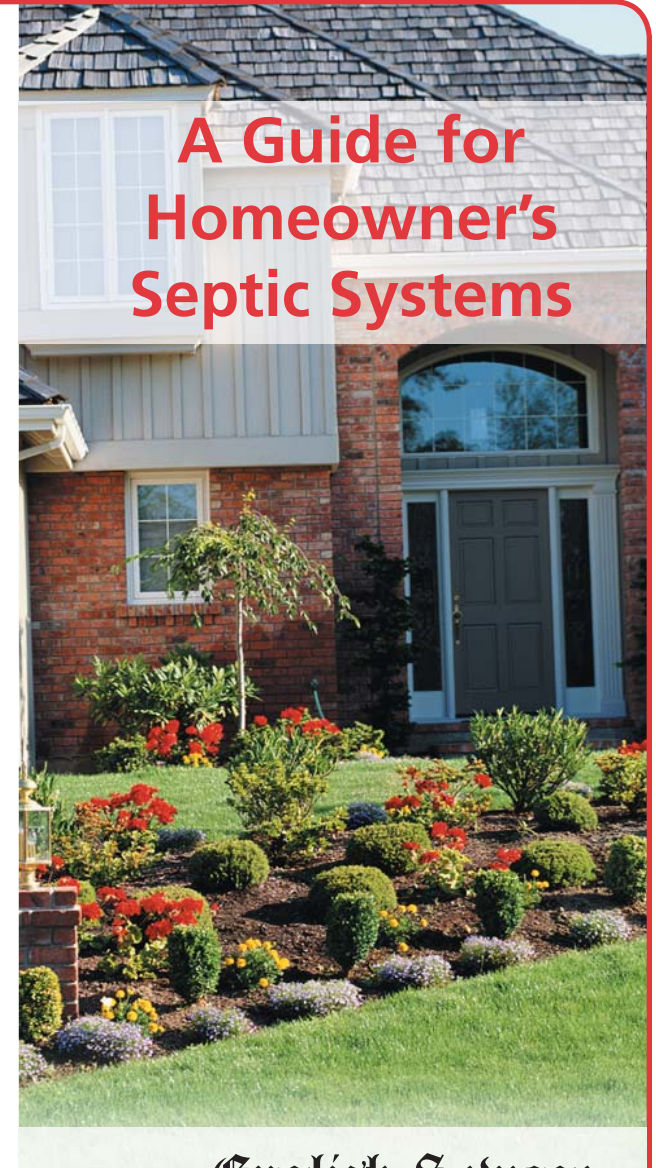
- NJDEP Licensed Waste Water Operators
- Treatment System Permit Application
- Regulatory Compliance Management Services
- Certified Septic System Inspection Services

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## **Local Health Departments**

- Salem County (856) 935-7510 Ext. 8448
  - Cumberland County (856) 453-2156
  - Gloucester County (856) 218-4180
  - Atlantic County (609) 645-5971
  - Camden County (856) 374-6064
  - City of Vineland (856) 794-4131
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**Order services online at:  
[www.englishsewage.com](http://www.englishsewage.com)**



# **A Guide for Homeowner's Septic Systems**



## **English Sewage Disposal**

A full service NJDEP Licensed Waste Water  
Management Company

**Office: 856-358-4771**

**Fax: 856-358-6376**

**[www.englishsewage.com](http://www.englishsewage.com)**

## Do's and Don'ts for Good Septic Management Practices

**Don't** pour any of the following into your home drains:

- Paints • Varnishes
- Oil • Anti-freeze • Pesticides
- Degreasing materials



**Don't** dump cooking oils, fats or grease into the kitchen sink. Your system cannot treat greases

**Don't** flush inert or non-biodegradable items down sinks or toilets. These include wipes, tampons, sanitary napkins, diapers, etc.

**Don't** use excessive amounts of water if you want your septic system to continue to operate properly.

**Don't** discharge floor drains, water conditioner discharges or sump pumps into septic systems.

**Don't** add a garbage grinder to a home with a septic system.

**Don't** drive or park vehicles or trailers over the disposal field. The weight can cause physical damage such as, broken connecting pipes, distribution boxes, manifolds and laterals.

**Don't** plant trees or other vegetation with extensive or deep root systems. Tree roots are capable of exerting enough pressure to rupture or dislodge distribution boxes, connecting pipes, manifolds and laterals. Grass is the best cover for disposal fields.

**Don't** divert surface water runoff towards the disposal field. The water infiltrating into the disposal field can result in hydraulic overloading and ultimately septic system malfunctions.

**Don't** construct driveways, parking lots, accessory buildings, decks or patios which intrude upon any component of the septic system components.

**Don't** hydraulically overload the septic system by operating a home business, home school or informal day care operation. The septic system is only intended to serve the needs of two adults in the master bedroom and one child in each additional bedroom.

**Do** know where waste from your septic sludge is disposed. Illegal dumping can lead back to you.

**Do** avoid showering and bathing at times when dishwashers and laundry are in use.

**Do** fix all leaking faucets and toilets.

**Do** try to distribute dish washing and laundry throughout the week rather than all at once.

**Do** minimize the use of antibacterial cleaners to avoid killing septic system bacteria.

**Do** maintain a diagram of the location of all components of your septic system including:

- Septic tank, cesspools, seepage pits
- Connection lines and pipes
- Distribution boxes • Disposal field

**Do** pump your septic tank. Solids are always accumulating in an operating system. The rate of microbial decomposition is slower than the rate at which sewage is added.

### System Repair

The construction or operation of a septic system is governed by "The Standard for Individual Sub-surface Sewerage Disposal Systems," N.J.A.C. 7:9A-1. It is illegal in New Jersey to construct, alter or repair a septic system without a proper permit. Penalties for violations can be up to \$50,000 per day.

Remember that any repair requiring excavation also require "New Jersey One Call" to identify buried utilities. "One Call" must be contacted by the contractor before digging by calling 1-800-272-1000.

It is illegal for an installer or contractor to perform this work without the necessary licenses, permits and underground utility mark out. You should verify that the installer carry liability and workers compensation insurance and is registered with the Department of Community Affairs as a home improvement contractor. Otherwise you could be sued if they are injured while working on your property and your home owners insurance may not cover property damage caused by their activity. Protect yourself by calling the NJ DCA at (609) 984-7910 to verify registration. Our Contractors License number is 13VH00181200.

If you are unsure whether a specific activity requires a permit, you can contact the local Health Department. The county health department is the local authority in matters pertaining to septic system repair and replacement. Each authority may allow slightly different repair activities. A few numbers are listed on the back for your convenience.

### Septic System Inspections

Realty transfer Septic system inspections must include an evaluation of the drainage area and all system components, a hydraulic loading test of the system for homes vacant for 7 days or more, pumping of the septic tank and verification that all household wastes are directed into the septic tank. Some digging in the drain field and opening of all tanks is needed.

Only experienced & certified technicians should perform the inspection as outlined by the NJ inspection guidelines found at [www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/pdf/inspection\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/pdf/inspection_guidance.pdf) Dye tests and surface checks aren't sufficient to certify a system as operable.

The report will provide details on the system and limited diagnosis of any faults found.