



Your Septic Checklist

DO

- ✓ Do use certified installers, inspectors and pumpers on a schedule.
- ✓ Do keep septic tank cover accessible and locked.
- ✓ Do divert down spouts and sump pumps away from lateral field.
- ✓ Do read labels to find low-phosphate detergents.
- ✓ Do maintain good grass cover over lateral field.
- ✓ Do have health department test your well each year.
- ✓ Do repair plumbing leaks and conserve water to extend the life of your system.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't put grease, solvent, paint, kerosene, gasoline, motor oil, pesticide, chemical drain opener, septic tank additive or cooking fat into drains or toilets.
- ✗ Don't dig in, build over or drive on your lateral field.
- ✗ Don't allow trees and shrubs nearby (roots clog lateral lines).
- ✗ Don't go down into a septic tank (may contain deadly gasses).
- ✗ Don't put any trash except toilet paper in toilet.



Call your health department for more information:

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Barry County | 417-846-1071 | Polk County | 417-326-7250 |
| Christian County | 417-581-7285 | Stone County | 417-357-6134 |
| Dade County | 417-637-2345 | Taney County | 417-546-7220 |
| Greene County | 417-864-1658 | Webster County | 417-859-6963 |

Keep the green here...



...not here.

A failed system:

- Costs a bundle to replace or repair
- Lowers the value of your property
- Makes lakes and rivers unfit for recreation

Funded in part by the Environmental Protection Agency



417-836-8878



**Watershed
Committee
of the Ozarks**

417-866-1127



Upper White River Basin

417-334-7644



417-739-4100



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Save our Ozarks Water Quality

**Failing septic systems
pollute our rivers, lakes,
and groundwater.**

Poorly treated sewage:

- Releases nutrients that feed algae
- Pollutes our drinking water
- Releases bacteria that can make people sick

A majority of Missouri septic tanks Fail to clean sewage Properly

"In the Ozarks, quality of life is tied to quality of water is tied to economic development. If we lose one, we risk losing all."

-Todd Parnell

Q. Wouldn't I know if my septic system was failing?

A. NO! A failing septic system can leak straight into the groundwater. Even pumping may not solve this problem. Have your system inspected today!



Conserve water here



20% of treatment in tank through settling of solids



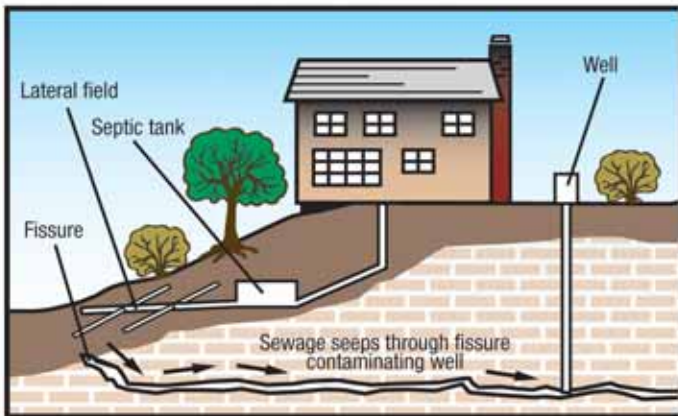
80% of treatment occurs in soil



Poorly treated sewage can contaminate groundwater, especially in karst



Wells draw up contaminated water if sewage flows into groundwater



Sewage treatment

1. Bacteria in tank begin to break down sewage from home.
2. Sludge settles in tank and liquid flows to lateral field pipes.
3. Liquid seeps into soil, which filters and purifies through bacterial & chemical action.



How Often Should I Pump?

Years Between Pumping If Garbage Disposal Present*

| Tank Size (gallons) | Number of People Using Tank | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 500 | 3 yrs | 1½ yrs | 7 mo | 5 mo | 3 mo | 1 mo |
| 1000 | 6 yrs | 3 yrs | 2 yrs | 1½ yrs | 1 yrs | 7 mo |
| 1250 | 8 yrs | 4 yrs | 2½ yrs | 2 yrs | 1½ yrs | 1 yrs |
| 1500 | 10 yrs | 5 yrs | 3 yrs | 2 yrs | 1¾ yrs | 1½ yrs |
| 2000 | 13 yrs | 6 yrs | 4 yrs | 3 yrs | 2¼ yrs | 2 yrs |
| 2500 | 16 yrs | 8 yrs | 5 yrs | 3¾ yrs | 3 yrs | 2½ yrs |

*If garbage disposal is not present, time between pumping can be increased 50%.

Data from Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension adapted by Greene County.

NOTE: If you suspect your septic system is in trouble or have surfacing of fluids, notify a registered septic tank installer or your local health department for assistance.