

# The Septic Maintenance Checklist

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A simple list of what to do, and what to avoid, to keep your septic system healthy for years.

## Every day

Small habits protect the most expensive part of your system, the drain field.

- Spread out laundry loads across the week instead of doing them all in one day.
- Fix running toilets and dripping faucets quickly; they overload the tank.
- Use water-efficient fixtures and showerheads where you can.
- Keep grease, oil, and fat out of the drain; let it cool and throw it away.

## Never flush or pour down the drain

- Wipes (even “flushable” ones), paper towels, or feminine products.
- Diapers, cat litter, cigarette butts, or coffee grounds.
- Paint, solvents, motor oil, gasoline, or harsh chemicals.
- Large amounts of bleach or antibacterial cleaner that kill the helpful bacteria.

## On a schedule

- Have the tank inspected every 1 to 3 years by a licensed pro.

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- Have the tank pumped every 3 to 5 years (more often for big households).

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  - Keep a record of pump-outs, inspections, and repairs.

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  - Keep vehicles, heavy equipment, and new structures off the drain field.

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  - Divert roof and surface water away from the drain field.

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  - Know where your tank and drain field are, and keep the lids secure.

## Remember

A septic system is cheap to maintain and expensive to neglect. If something seems off, Leachstead can match you, free, with a trusted local pro.

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This is a free, educational worksheet from Leachstead ([leachstead.com](http://leachstead.com)). It is general information, not professional, environmental, or legal advice. Septic work usually requires permits and licensed installers. Always confirm details with a licensed septic pro and your local health department, and get a written quote before any work starts. Costs and timelines vary by your system, soil, access, and area.