

Septic Warning Signs Checklist

Most septic problems warn you before a backup. Print this and check the signs you have noticed.

Inside the house

More than one of these at once usually means call a pro soon, not later.

- Drains and toilets are slow throughout the house, not just one fixture.
- Toilets gurgle, or you hear bubbling in drains when water runs elsewhere.
- A sewage or rotten-egg smell near drains, the basement, or floor drains.
- Sewage or dark water backing up into the lowest drains or the tub.

Outside in the yard

- A patch of grass over the tank or drain field is much greener or lush.
- Soggy, spongy, or wet ground over the drain field, even in dry weather.
- Standing water or a foul smell over the tank or drain field.
- A septic alarm is sounding (common with pump or aerobic systems).

What to do right now

Ease up on water use, dishwashers, laundry, and long showers, to reduce the load.

Keep children and pets away from any standing sewage; it is a health hazard.

Do not open the tank yourself; septic gases can be dangerous.

Get a licensed pro out to look. Leachstead matches you, free, and you choose who to hire.

This is a free, educational worksheet from Leachstead (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.