

Henry County Health Department

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MAINTAINING YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Dear Homeowner:

Living in the country has many advantages - clean air, less noise, and more space to run. The biggest damper to this type of good life is an unwanted, smelly pond over the septic tank. The following are a few simple rules of maintenance that may help to prevent this from happening.

- Do not connect downspouts or footing drains to the septic system. Divert flow away from the septic tank.
- Do not run water softener backwash water into the septic tank.
- Have the septic tank pumped out by a reputable firm every two or three years.
- Do not construct buildings, patios, or driveways on, or over the septic tank or separate field.
- Keep the area over the system mowed.
- Do not plant bushes, shrubs, or trees over the system or close to it.
- Do not use septic tank additives; they may harm the system by clogging the soil treatment unit.
- If you are having root problems, flush two or three pounds of copper sulfate down the stool once a year to keep the roots under control. (Caution: this material will corrode iron.)
- Do not use a garbage disposal with a septic tank unless you plan to pump out the septic tank more frequently.
- Check the level of the sludge and scum in your septic tank annually to determine if it requires pumping. Easy step by step instructions for checking your tank are on the reverse side of this page. All you will need is an 8-inch square board nailed to an 8-foot long stick. (A 2"x2" board will do.)

If you have any septic problems, be sure to contact the Henry County Health Department to pick up the appropriate permit.

Good Luck.