

Is Your Septic System at Risk of Failing?

As a homeowner, you are responsible for maintaining your septic system. How much do you know about your septic? Take the following quiz to find out if you are septic savvy.



Exposed septic tank.

- How old is your septic system?
 - 5 years or less
 - 6 to 20 years
 - More than 20 years
- How often is your tank pumped?
 - On a regular basis (at least every 3 to 5 years)
 - Occasionally (more than 5 years)
 - Has not been pumped (or don't know)
- Do you pour oil, grease, or coffee grounds down the sink?
 - Never
 - Occasionally
 - Often
- Do you put paints, solvents, or pesticides down the drain?
 - Never
 - Occasionally
 - Often
- Do you use a garbage disposal?
 - Never
 - Occasionally (once or twice a week)
 - Often (more than twice a week)
- Does your sinks, tub, or shower drain slowly?
 - Never
 - Occasionally (2 to 3 times a year)
 - More than 3 times a year
- Do you practice water conservation?
 - Use water-saving fixtures and practices
 - Some water-saving fixtures and practices
 - No water-saving fixtures and practices
- How frequently do you run high-water usage appliances?
 - Spread laundry and dishwasher loads over the week, doing only 1 or 2 full loads a day
 - Run the washer and dishwasher at the same time
 - Do all your laundry in one day (3 or more loads)
- Do you flush cigarette butts, dental floss, kitty litter, diapers, sanitary napkins, or tampons down the toilet?
 - Never
 - Occasionally
 - Often
- How close are trees and shrubs to the drainfield?
 - More than 30 feet
 - Within 15 to 30 feet
 - Less than 15 feet
- Do vehicles or heavy equipment drive over the drainfield?
 - Never
 - Occasionally
 - Often

Scoring:

Score 1 point for every A answer.
Score 2 points for every B answer.
Score 3 points for every C answer.

11-16 points – Low risk
17-23 points – Moderate risk
24 or more – High risk