

The Pembroke Stormwater Times

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HOW DOES YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM AFFECT LOCAL WATERBODIES?

Many homeowners, businesses, and property owners rely on septic systems as a way to safely treat and release their wastewater. When wastewater is released, the water infiltrates the groundwater, replenishing groundwater and surface waters. If a septic system is not properly maintained or not properly functioning, pollutants typically filtered out in the septic system can leak into groundwater, directly affecting well water used for drinking and into nearby surface waters. Properly maintaining, operating, and locating your septic system are all things you can do to protect water resources and nearby drinking water wells!



BE SEPTICSMART!

Shield Your Field

- Divert rain and surface water. Don't park on the drainfield!

Protect It -Inspect It!

- Service your system every one to three years.

Pump Your Tank

- At regular intervals.

Don't Overload the Commode

- Don't flush things meant for the trash can.

Think at the Sink

- Avoid pouring fats, grease, solids, and chemicals down the drain.

Keep it Clean

- Test your drinking water regularly if you have a well.

www.ThinkBlueSuncook.org

Be SepticSmart at home and out in the community!

Did you know that many public places use septic systems for their restrooms? This is especially true in rural towns. Examples of places include restaurants, parks, campgrounds, and highway rest stops. Putting items not intended for a septic system into the toilet can clog pipes or clog the septic system itself. Here are some tips of what can you *should and should not* flush:

 **Toilet paper**

 **Paper towels**

Cigarettes

Wipes

Plastics

Medications

Disposable diapers

Feminine hygiene

Cotton swabs/balls

Dental floss

Toxic substances

Maintaining Your Septic System & Why It's Important

A typical septic system should be serviced every one to three years by a septic system service provider. This can be dependent on the number of people living in your home and owners should talk with their service provider to find out what frequently is best for their system. But why is regular maintenance so important?

- **Saves you money.** Regular maintenance fees are significantly less compared to the cost of repairing or replacing a malfunctioning system.
- **Protects your property value.** An unusable septic system or one in disrepair will lower your property value, not to mention pose a potentially costly legal liability.
- **Keeps you, your neighbors, and the environment healthy.** Insufficiently treated sewage from underperforming septic systems can cause all of the disease-causing bacteria and viruses to infiltrate into groundwater, which can be spread in humans and animals. Contaminated groundwater not only works its way into wells, but eventually enter streams, rivers, lakes, and more, harming local ecosystems and impacting the habitats and wildlife within.

More Resources:

- Septic Smart, United States Environmental Protection Agency: <https://www.epa.gov/septic>
- Subsurface Systems Bureau, NH Dept. Of Environmental Services: <https://www.des.nh.gov/contacts/subsurface%20systems%20bureau>
- NH-MS4 Regional Stormwater Coalitions: <https://www.nhms4.des.nh.gov/>

This flyer is intended for educational purposes as part of Pembroke's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) requirements. Check out more at www.thinkbluesuncook.org.



Town of Pembroke

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