

Septic System Fact Sheet

The Pleasant Lake Protective Association – 3/2011

Did You Know?

- Each homeowner with an on-site septic system is a waste management treatment plant manager.
- Home septic systems have a life expectancy which can be prolonged or shortened by homeowner actions.
- The cost of properly maintaining a septic system is a fraction of the cost of repairing or replacing a failed system.
- Failing and improperly maintained septic systems can impact resident health and is a leading cause of surface and groundwater quality deterioration within a watershed.
- A few simple steps can be taken to ensure the proper operation of a septic system and to maximize the useful life of this meaningful homeowner investment.

What You Can Do

- Know where the major components of your system are located in order to make periodic inspections and maintenance easier.
- Learn what you should and should not put into your waste treatment plant in order to keep your septic system healthy, operating at maximum efficiency, and to maximize its useful life.
- Learn the basics of how a septic system processes waste so that operation, inspection, and maintenance requirements are understood.
- Discuss your specific septic system and usage patterns with a professional and establish a routine schedule to have your system inspected and pumped of untreated solids.

Benefits for the Homeowner

- Routine and scheduled inspections and maintenance will protect a several thousand dollar investment in your waste water treatment plant.
- Routine and scheduled inspections and maintenance will help identify problems early in order to avoid unexpected disruptive and costly septic system failures.

Benefits for the Watershed

- Overall improved functioning of septic systems and fewer septic system failures will improve both surface and groundwater quality within any watershed and help maintain the extraordinary quality of Pleasant Lake and other water bodies for current and future generations..

Where to find more information

- Visit the *Education* page at Pleasant Lake Protective Association's website, www.PLPA.net, for more information on "Septic System Basics." The article includes several useful links for information about septic system operation, construction, warning signs, inspection, and maintenance.

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