



■ Homeowner Checklist: Septic System Warning Signs

Use this checklist to see if your septic (wastewater) system may be malfunctioning and to help you decide what to do next.

✓ Information to Gather

- ✓ Wastewater permit number (if known)
- ✓ Date the system was installed
- ✓ Copy of permit or system design
- ✓ Date the septic tank was last pumped
- ✓ How often the tank is pumped
- ✓ Any recent changes in household water use

✓ Possible Signs of a Problem

- ✓ Well water tests show wastewater contamination
- ✓ Wet, soggy, or smelly areas in the yard
- ✓ Wastewater reaching surface water or drainage ditches
- ✓ Grass over the leachfield is unusually green
- ✓ Slow drains or sewage backups in the home
- ✓ Problems occur during wet weather or high water use



📞 Who to Call First: Start With Easy Fixes

Many septic problems can be identified and fixed without major repairs. Call qualified professionals first.

📞 Plumbers Can Check:

- 📞 Clogged or slow drains
- 📞 Broken or collapsed pipes
- 📞 Plugged vent pipes
- 📞 Improper connections to the septic system
- 📞 Whether the septic tank is full or leaking

📞 Excavating / Wastewater Contractors Can Check:

- 📞 Septic tank condition and filters
- 📞 Pumps and distribution boxes
- 📞 Outside pipes and connections
- 📞 Drainage or landscape problems near the leachfield
- 📞 Signs of root damage or soil compaction



■ When to Call a Licensed Designer

Licensed Designers evaluate failed septic systems and design repairs or replacements that meet state requirements.

- ✓ Review inspection findings and system permits
- ✓ Confirm system location, setbacks, and water sources
- ✓ Evaluate soil and leachfield condition
- ✓ Determine repair, replacement, or alternative options
- ✓ Prepare permits or variance requests if needed

✓ After Your System Is Fixed

- ✓ Follow maintenance instructions for your system
- ✓ Pump the septic tank as recommended
- ✓ Use water efficiently
- ✓ Do not flush or drain non-household wastes