

Hillsborough Health Department

379 South Branch Road
Hillsborough Township, NJ 08844
(908)-369-5652

Septic Systems

Your septic system is not just a tank ... it has both a tank and a disposal field. The septic tank holds in your solid waste in a watertight tank while the remaining wastewater is sent to the disposal field to be distributed over the land and treated as it permeates through.

Septic Tank Information For the Homeowner

Date System Was Installed: ___ / ___ / ___ Name of Installer: _____

Phone Number of Installer: _____ Tank Size: _____ gallons Capacity: _____ bedrooms

Type of System: _____ (Conventional or Alternative)

*****Make sure to keep a copy of the septic system blueprint w/ location and dimensions*****

Why should you care about maintaining?

1. **Save thousands of dollars:** By ensuring your system is functioning well, you avoid the risk of failure and paying excessively for repair
2. **Prevent contamination:** If a system fails, it could contaminate the groundwater and potentially affect your drinking water supply

Do's and Don'ts

Below is a basic chart of what should be done vs. what should not be done.

<u>DO'S</u>	<u>DONT'S</u>
Practice Water Conservation	Dispose of hazardous wastes in sinks/toilets

DO'S	DONT'S
Fix all leaking faucets and toilets	Drive or park over your septic system
Avoid showering/bathing when the dishwasher and laundry are in use	Add a garbage grinder with a septic system
Try to distribute dishwashing and laundry use throughout the week	Add commercial septic tank additives to speed up decomposition
Keep track of the location of all components of your septic system	Construct anything that will encroach upon any part of the septic system
Plant only grass over and around your septic system and its components	Divert surface water runoff towards your disposal field.
Pump your tank every 2-3 years	Use septic system cleaners with banned substances
	Put non-biodegradable material into system*
Call the number at the top with questions or for more information	Hook up sump pumps or floor drains to your septic system.
	Empty Jacuzzi, hottubs, or water softener waste into septic system.

Hazardous Wastes Include: Motor oil, Oil based or acrylic paints, varnishes, photographic solutions, pesticides, insecticides, paint thinners, organic solvents, degreasers, cooking oils, fats, grease.

Non-biodegradable items include: diapers, cat litter, cigarette filters.

Banned Substances Include: Trichloroethene, benzene, toluene, naphthalene, phenols, or acroleins

Examples of Construction: Driveways, parking lots, accessory buildings, sprinkler system, decks, patios, and additions to the main building.

For more information:

["A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems"](http://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pdf/septicmn.pdf) : <http://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/pdf/septicmn.pdf>

[EPA - Septic System Outreach](https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-systems-outreach-toolkit) : <https://www.epa.gov/septic/septic-systems-outreach-toolkit>

