

Did you know, if you have a *septic system*....

you actually have a wastewater (sewage) treatment plant in your yard? Most people don't think of it that way, but it's true.

WHEN properly designed, constructed, and maintained, septic systems can provide long-term, effective treatment of household wastewater.

Things you need to know to get the most from your system:

- Rinse the effluent filter in your tank every 9-12 months & have the tank pumped by a State Licensed pumper generally every 3-5 years.
- Space water usage over the day & week, i.e. do laundry over several days not just on the weekend. Use water efficiently.
- Limit use of antibacterial soaps & detergents or body washes that contain lotions & oils. Also, use bleach-containing products sparingly.
- Plant only grass over or near your system. Tree roots can damage the system.
- Have a diagram of your system so that you can avoid driving over it, compacting it, building on it, or damaging it in some way. If you do not have a copy of the installation diagram, contact your contractor or County Environmental Health office.
- For more information, go to one of the following: <http://www.iowwa.com> (See Member Search), <http://www.nowra.org> (See Septic Locator) or EPA's Septic Smart listing shown below.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/septicmart>

Cloggers

diapers, cat litter, garbage disposal waste, coffee grounds, grease, feminine hygiene products, etc.

Killers

household chemicals, antibacterial soaps, gasoline, oil, paint, pesticides, etc.