

## Septic System Maintenance Information

A poorly working septic system can release harmful bacteria that can cause illness and result in polluted drinking water wells. Septic systems are a source of phosphorus, nitrogen, organic matter, bacteria, and viral pathogens that can enter the lake. The reasons septic system failure are inadequate design, inappropriate installation, neglected maintenance, or a clogged leach field.

### Signs of trouble

- Smelly leach field
- Wet grassy area in the leach field
- Unusually green area in leach field
- Slow draining toilets

### Septic tank pumping depends on

- Tank size, normal is 1000 gallons
- Family size
- Garbage disposal adds additional solids, pump yearly
- Normal pumping frequency every 2-3 years

### Septic system maintenance

- Use water conservers such as flow reducers in the shower, sinks, and toilets
- If replacing toilets use new low flow model
- If replacing washing machine consider a water saving model
- Do not pour chemicals in sink or toilet, they pollute the leach field
- During a tank pump out, inspect tank for cracks and baffle for flow
- When soil is saturated with water, heavy rain or snow melt space washing machine and dishwasher use so you give the leach field time to drain
- Direct rain water gutters and flow away from the tank and leach field
- Consult with your septic system professional about use of draining chemicals and yeast