

Septic System Maintenance Checklist

1. Septic Tank Pumping

- Schedule professional pumping (every 3-5 years based on tank size and usage)
- Confirm solids and sludge removal

2. Annual System Inspection

- Schedule a licensed professional to inspect the tank, pipes, baffles, and drain field
- Note any repairs needed and complete them promptly

3. Water Conservation Practices

- Install low-flow fixtures (if needed)
- Space out water-heavy tasks (e.g., laundry loads)
- Regularly check for leaks in faucets and toilets

4. Effluent Filter and Baffle Cleaning

- Clean effluent filter every 6 to 12 months
- Inspect and clean baffles in the septic tank
- Note any needed replacements

5. Drain Field Monitoring

- Inspect for any water pooling in the drain field area
- Avoid planting deep-rooted plants or driving heavy equipment over the drain field

6. Use of Septic Additives (Optional)

[Click here for my favorite septic additive](#)

- Use a monthly septic additive (if recommended by a professional) to maintain bacterial balance
- Follow product instructions closely

7. Avoid Harmful Chemicals and Non-Biodegradable Items

- Do not pour bleach, solvents, pesticides, or oils down drains
- Avoid flushing non-biodegradable items (e.g., wipes, paper towels, sanitary products)

8. Watch for Signs of System Issues

- Check for slow drainage or bad odors from drains (monthly)
- Monitor for sewage backups or overly green patches above the drain field
- Address any issues immediately to prevent costly repairs