

Septic - Flush & Pump

A well-functioning septic system poses little risk to drinking water, a poorly operating system is a potential source of disease-causing bacteria, viruses, household chemicals, and nitrates.



EPA - A Homeowners Guide to Septic Systems

1. **Watch what you put down the drains**
2. **Watch how much you put down the drains** Economy in use of household water is recommended. Avoid taking long showers and doing several loads of laundry consecutively. Quickly fix dripping faucets, running commodes, malfunctioning water softeners, etc., as they can cause a system to flood out.
3. **Pump out what you put down the drains** Pump out your septic tank regularly to prevent the solids from accumulating too much. This can cause the drainfield to clog and require expensive repairs.

www.stanhopecovehead.pe.ca

Improving onsite system performance by improving user habits

The University of Minnesota Extension Service's *Septic System Owner's Guide* recommends the following practices to improve onsite system performance:

- Do not use "every flush" toilet bowl cleaners.
- Reduce the use of drain cleaners by minimizing the amount of hair, grease, and food particles that go down the drain.
- Reduce the use of cleaners by doing more scrubbing with less cleanser.
- Use the minimum amount of soap, detergent, and bleach necessary to do the job.
- Use minimal amounts of mild cleaners and only as needed.
- Do not drain chlorine-treated water from swimming pools and hot tubs into septic systems.
- Dispose of all solvents, paints, antifreeze, and chemicals through local recycling and hazardous waste collection programs.
- Do not flush unwanted prescription or over-the-counter medications down the toilet.

Adapted from University of Minnesota, 1998.

SPOTTING COMMON COMPLICATIONS

