

## SEPTIC SYSTEM TIPS

### *Excess water makes your septic system work harder*

- Ensure usage matches septic capacity (e.g., a 4-person septic design cannot handle 12 renters).
- Conserve water and fix leaks.
- Divert storm drains or basement pumps away from your system.
- Reduce garbage disposal use by composting kitchen scraps.

### *Foreign items can clog your septic system and cause failure*

- Avoid flushing bulky items like paper towels and feminine products or fats and greases down the drain.

### *Harmful substances can negatively impact your system and lake*

- Avoid pouring chemicals or unnecessary additives down your drain or toilet. Bleach can kill the bacteria in the tank.

### *Protect your leach field for optimal system performance*

- Operate heavy machinery away from your leach field.
- Keep trees from growing on or near your leach field.
- Direct runoff away from the leach field so the area does not oversaturate.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Be proactive about your septic system's health. Waiting for system failure guarantees a costly bill.**

Watch for these warning signs: sewage odors, slow flushes, or visible sewage seepages near the leach field.

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For more information, contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Water Division, Subsurface Systems Bureau

**ONLINE:**

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/ssb/>

**MAIL:**

29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

**PHONE:**

(603) 271-3501

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### Town of North Hampton

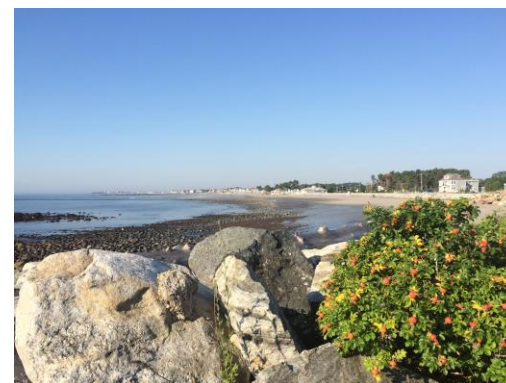
[http://www.northhampton-nh.gov/Public\\_Documents/index](http://www.northhampton-nh.gov/Public_Documents/index)



Brochure designed by L. Diemer, FB Environmental Associates

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# HELP PROTECT LITTLE RIVER & BEACHES



## Town of North Hampton Presents

# Tips for Responsible Septic System Maintenance

## SEPTIC SYSTEM INSTALLATION

Your septic system should be properly sized for its intended use, depending on household size and use of garbage disposals. Typically, a 3-bedroom house requires a 1,000 gallon tank.

## SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

**Pump out your system every 2-3 years (4 if seasonal).**

Pump more frequently if you use a garbage disposal.

Properly designed, installed, and maintained systems last 20+ years before replacement is needed.

Call a professional to inspect your system if it is older than 20 years.

## SEPTIC SYSTEM FAILURE

Failing septic systems can contaminate surface and ground water with nutrients, chemicals, and pathogens, and may be contributing nutrients that stimulate algal blooms in surface waters.

**Untreated household waste can be harmful to your family's health and to Little River and public beaches.**

