Caring For Your Septic System

Septic systems must be maintained regularly to ensure proper functionality. Failing systems can:

- Be extremely detrimental to your health
- Degrade the environment
- Reduce the value of property
- Be expensive to repair
- Put water supply users at risk

Warning Signs of a Failing Septic System

- Sewage surfacing on drain field
- Sewage back-ups in the house
- Green, lush growth over the drain field
- Slow-draining sinks, toilets, and drains
- Sewage odors on property

Contact Us:
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Learn the Dos and Don'ts of caring for septic systems, as well as the warning signs of a failing system
**Septic Systems 101**

Septic systems are used to treat and dispose of relatively small volumes of wastewater, most often from household plumbing fixtures such as toilets, showers, and laundry. Waste is temporarily held in a septic tank where heavy solids and lighter bits of waste can be separated from the wastewater. The solids stored in the tank are decomposed by bacteria and later removed, along with the lighter scum, by a professional septic tank pumper.

A conventional septic system consists of a septic tank, a distribution box, and a drain field. These pieces are connected by pipes called conveyance lines.

When partially treated wastewater leaves the tank, it flows into a distribution box which separates matter into a network of drain field trenches. From here, wastewater drains into gravel trenches for temporary storage. Discharged liquid from the septic tank, known as effluent, then seeps into subsurface soil where it is further treated and purified.

**Septic System Dos and Don'ts**

**DO**
- Get your tank inspected and pumped every 2-3 years
- Conserve water by repairing water leaks and using water-saving features in shower-heads, faucets, and toilets
- Be aware of the location of your septic system and drain field
- Divert roof drains, sump pump drains, and run-off water away from septic system
- Use harmful chemicals such as bleach and cleaners sparingly. Dispose of hazardous household chemicals properly.

**DON'T**
- Drive or park over the septic system
- Allow roots from trees and shrubs to damage drain lines
- Schedule repairs to septic system without obtaining a health department permit
- Use commercial septic tank additives
- Flush non-degradable products like grease, wipes, plastics