What about septic tank additives?

While some makers of septic tank additives claim their products break down septic tank sludge so you don’t need to pump your system, the effectiveness of additives hasn’t been proven. In fact, many studies show that additives have no significant effects on a tank’s bacterial population.

Your septic tank already contains the microbes it needs to break down your household waste. Periodic pumping and regular maintenance, not additives, are the only ways to ensure the longterm health of your septic system!

Your Local Health Department Is Here to Help!

For questions about septic systems, call on the local experts:

- City of Gary: Department of Health and Human Services  
  219-881-5275
- Lake County Health Department  
  219-755-3655
- LaPorte County Health Department  
  LaPorte Office: 219-326-6808 x2200  
  Michigan City Office: 219-874-5611 x7780
- Porter County Health Department  
  Valparaiso Office: 219-465-3525  
  Portage Office: 219-759-8239

Some language in this brochure is adapted from: epa.gov/septic/septicsmart-homeowners

Your local health department can help you find certified and licensed professionals.

If you have:

- Wastewater backing up into household drains,
- A strong odor around the septic tank and drainfield, and/or
- Bright green, spongy grass appearing on the drainfield, even during dry weather,

You might have a failing septic system!

Don’t wait for a problem to occur. Contact your local health department about regular maintenance today.

For more information on how you can be Septic Smart, please visit: www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich