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**Septic doesn't
have to be hard,
we are here to
help!**

HOW WE HELP YOU

- Specification Consultations
- Onsite Design Review
- Septic Design Review
- Inspection of Installation
- Complaint Investigation
- General Questions

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

227 W. Jefferson Boulevard
9th Floor County City Building
South Bend, IN 46601



574-235-9750



SEPTIC SYSTEM: A CARE GUIDE

[HTTPS://WWW.IN.GOV/LOCALHEALTH/STJOSEPHCOUNTY/](https://www.in.gov/localhealth/stjosephcounty/)

SEPTIC CARE MADE EASY

Daily Care:

Avoid putting food scraps or grease down your garbage disposal or drain. Don't flush baby wipes, flushable wipes or feminine products down the toilet.

Weekly Care:

Do laundry in smaller, spread-out loads and keep dishwashing separate.

Monthly Care:

Give your effluent filter a cleaning every 3–6 months.

Yearly Care:

Schedule a septic pump-out every 3–5 years.

COMMON PITFALLS AND REMEDIES



TEMPORARY BACKUPS

Cleaning your effluent filter every 3-6 months will reduce the risk of this occurring.



LARGE SCALE DAMAGE

Don't build or drive **ANYTHING** over your system.



OVERLOADING WITH WATER

Spread out loads of laundry and loads of dishes to avoid.



KILLING TANK BACTERIA

To prevent this issue, refrain from disposing of antibiotics, bleach, or any medications down the drain.

OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE - BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



<https://www.in.gov/local-health/stjosephcounty/>



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FAQS

Q: Can I plant near my system?

A: *Smaller plants with shallow root systems **only**.*

Q: How often should I pump my tank?

A: *Every 3-5 years, dependent on water usage. The more people in the house the more frequent the pumping should be. This is especially important to consider if you have an at home day care.*

Q: What is an effluent filter and how do I clean it?

A: *The effluent filter is a plastic filter located on the outlet side of the tank prevents solids from flowing into the soil absorption field. Every 3-6 months clean the effluent filter by:*

- *Removing it*
- *Rinsing it with a garden hose*
- *Place it back.*

