

KNOW YOUR  
FACTS ABOUT  
FAILING SEPTIC  
SYSTEM

There are several indicators that your septic system may not be functioning as properly as it should:

1. Slow draining sinks and toilets
2. Plumbing backups
3. Sewage odors from yard and indoor pipes
4. The ground is wet or mushy above your absorption field
5. The grass is a different shade of green and grows faster
6. Test shows presence of bacteria in nearby waterways and wells.

Steuben County Health  
Department

317 South Wayne St., Ste. 1B  
Angola, IN 46703  
**Phone: 260-668-1000 ext:1500**

Steuben County Soil & Water  
Conservation District

1220 N 200 W STE L  
Angola, IN 46703  
**Phone: 260-665-3211 ext:3**

LOCAL SEPTIC TANK CLEANING  
SERVICES

Aztec Excavating Sewer & Septic Service  
(260)833-2416  
Eicher Sewer Service LLC  
(260)495-2573  
Eyster Excavating & Sewer Service  
(260)665-5169  
Perkins Septic & Drain Services  
(260)587-3739  
Shorty's Sewer Service INC  
(260)833-1901

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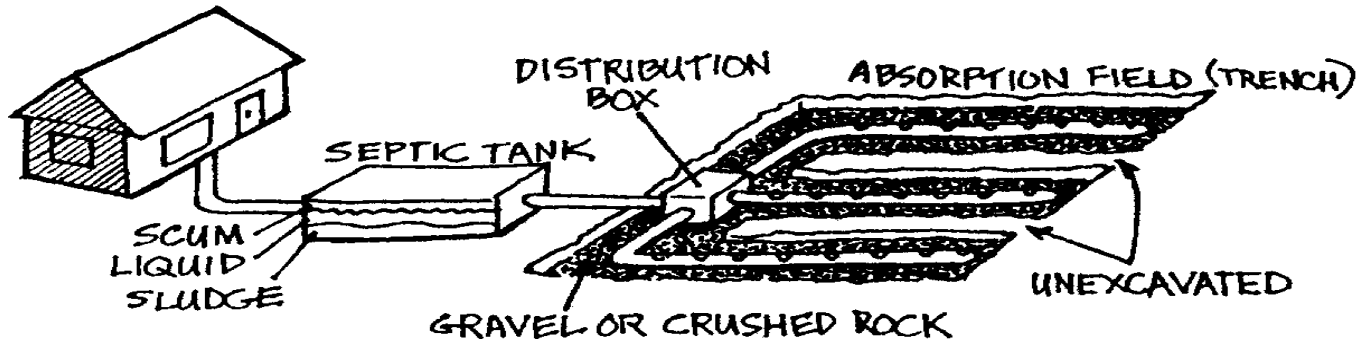


# SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE INFORMATION

## A REFERENCE GUIDE FOR HOME OWNERS WITH SEPTIC SYSTEMS



STEUBEN COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT



### WHY MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM?

- ⇒ Failing septic systems are very expensive to replace or repair.
- ⇒ It only costs around \$200 every three-five years to have your septic pumped compared to \$8,000 to \$12,000 to replace or repair.
- ⇒ A neglected septic system could reduce your property value.
- ⇒ A failing septic system could contaminate your well causing your family to become ill.
- ⇒ A failing septic system is a risk to the environment.

### TIPS FOR TAKING CARE OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

- Don't overload the septic system tank.
- Maintain regular maintenance every 3-5 years based on household size.
- Don't plant large trees or bushes near drain field.
- Don't flush hazardous chemicals like gasoline, oil, antifreeze or paint which can stop the biological breakdown of waste.
- Don't flush paper goods such as feminine hygiene products, diapers, or paper towels which can clog pipes.

### WHAT ARE SEPTIC SYSTEMS AND HOW DO THEY WORK?

Septic systems are individual wastewater treatment systems that use the soil to treat individual home wastewater flows. They are normally used in rural areas where centralized wastewater treatment utilities are not accessible. A septic system consists of two main components.

First is the septic tank, its main function is to temporarily hold and separate the waste. The waste stored in the tank decompose by bacteria until a professional septic tank service can empty it. The second component is a soil absorption field. The soil absorption field provides final treatment and distribution of the wastewater. This system relies on micro-organisms in the soil to remove the harmful bacteria left in the water.



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