



Residential

Septic systems

Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby waterbodies. Pathogens can cause public health problems and environmental concerns.

Inspect your system every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary (every 3 to 5 years). Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.



Construction

Erosion controls that aren't maintained can cause excessive amounts of sediment and debris to be carried into the stormwater system. Construction vehicles can leak fuel, oil, and other harmful fluids that can be picked up by stormwater and deposited into local waterbodies.

☐ Divert stormwater away from disturbed or exposed areas of the construction site.

☐ Install silt fences, vehicle mud removal areas, vegetative cover, and other sediment and erosion controls and properly maintain them, especially after rainstorms.

☐ Prevent soil erosion by minimizing disturbed areas during construction projects, and seed and mulch bare areas as soon as possible.

Septic System Care and Tips:

Regularly inspect your system and pump your tank as necessary.

Use water efficiently.

Don't dispose of household hazardous wastes in sinks and toilets.

Plant only grass over and near your septic system. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs might clog and damage the drain field.

Know where your septic tank is. Keep the photograph in a home maintenance file on your computer for future reference.

Yeast helps keep bacteria alive and actively breaks down waste solids when added to your septic system.

Flush ½ cup of instant dry baking yeast down the toilet, the first time. Add ¼ cup of instant yeast every 4 months, after the initial addition.

Do not use products containing bleach to clean toilets, as it destroys the bacteria needed to break down waste solids in your septic system.

Natural Toilet Bowl Cleaner



1/2 C of Baking Soda
1/2 C of Liquid Castile Soap
15 Drops each of Tea Tree & Lemon Essential Oils
1 Cup of Water
1 Old Toilet Bowl Cleaner Container or similar with a lid

Add all of the ingredients to a large bowl and whisk together well. Use a funnel to transfer the ingredients to a bottle. Squirt or pour a generous amount into your toilet bowl...about 1/4 cup.

Use a toilet scrub brush to scrub under the rim and the entire inside of your toilet bowl. Once you are finished, simply flush the toilet to rinse!



Lack of vegetation on streambanks can lead to erosion. Overgrazed pastures can also contribute excessive amounts of sediment to local water bodies. Excess fertilizers and pesticides can poison aquatic animals and lead to destructive algae blooms. Livestock in streams can contaminate waterways with bacteria, making them unsafe for human contact.

☐ Keep livestock away from streambanks and provide them a water source away from waterbodies.

☐ Store and apply manure away from waterbodies and in accordance with a nutrient management plan.

☐ Vegetate riparian areas along waterways. Rotate animal grazing to prevent soil erosion in fields.

☐ Apply fertilizers and pesticides according to label instructions to save money and minimize pollution.



Dirt, oil, and debris that collect in parking lots and paved areas can be washed into the storm sewer system and eventually enter local waterbodies.

☐ Sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, especially around storm drains.

☐ Cover grease storage and dumpsters and keep them clean to avoid leaks.

☐ Report any chemical spill to the local hazardous waste cleanup team. They'll know the best way to keep spills from harming the environment.

WHAT IS STORMWATER RUNOFF ?



Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

WHY IS STORMWATER RUNOFF A PROBLEM?



Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged, untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.



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AFTER THE STORM



Public Involvement Public Education
Educating the public on our impact on Lake Erie