

Stormwater ó Why Should I Care?

Stormwater is precipitation ó rain or snowmelt- that falls on a land area and flows to a water body. As it flows, it picks up material from the land surface and carries it to the lake or stream.

Things like litter, large debris and sediment are readily visible. Other contaminants are present, but not as easily seen: lawn and agricultural chemicals, fertilizers, pathogens, dissolved fecal materials, petroleum products, and other undesirable materials can be carried in stormwater, including waste if you don't take care of your septic system.

Every stream, storm drain, and road ditch within the watershed area carries stormwater and its content.

Polluted stormwater causes significant problems.

- The cost of treating drinking water for human consumption rises.
- Bacteria and pathogens cause beach closures.
- Excess nutrients spur aquatic weed growth. Weed harvesting costs rise.
- Excess nutrients spur algae growth. Oxygen depletion results when algae dies and decomposes, harming fish and other aquatic life.
- Household hazardous wastes poison aquatic life.
- Sediment covers fish spawning areas
- Debris washed into the water choke, suffocate or disable aquatic life.

Town of Macedon

Let Us Know:

If you notice these things near you or have any questions, let us know

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Ontario-Wayne
Stormwater Coalition
www.owsc.org



Septic Tips For Your Septic Tank

So Your
Time and Money
Doesn't Go Down the Drain

Town of Macedon



www.macedontown.net

Septic Tips for Your Septic Tank

Have issues with your home's septic tank not working properly? Don't call when it's too late. Repair bills are anywhere from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

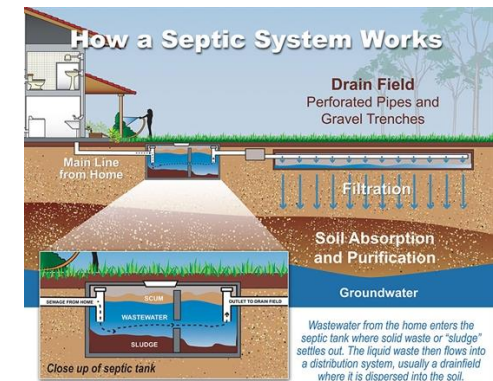
Here are a few basic rules to keep in mind if you have a septic system at your house, which will help the longevity of your system.

- 1) Have your septic tank pumped at least every other year. When the tank is being pumped, specifically ask the septic company to inspect your outlet baffle on the tank to make sure it is intact. This will ensure that the solids in the tank do not escape and plug your leach lines.
- 2) Do your laundry at night. If you start the washing machine before you go to bed, the wash water has all night to absorb into the ground. If you do your wash in the morning, this is the worst time, right after everyone gets up, takes showers and brushes their teeth.
- 3) Buy water efficient fixtures. Low flow shower heads and toilets make a huge difference in your overall water consumption, especially if you have an older house. High efficiency front load washers typically use a fraction of the water than older style washers use. The added bonus is lower water, electric and gas bills.
- 4) Don't let the water run. Little changes in how you go about your daily life such as not letting the water run while brushing your teeth, and not running the water continuously while doing the dishes make a big difference. Get toilets that run continuously and faucets that drip fixed. You'll save thousands of gallons of water.
- 5) Pipe your downspouts. If you have roof downspouts that discharge onto splash blocks onto the lawn which subsequently drain in the general lawn area of your septic system, that's very bad. Piping your downspout away from the septic system will help keep the ground dryer, and allow the leach lines to work better.
- 6) Ponding water is bad. If you have a bird bath in your lawn when it rains, consult with a local landscaper or sitework contractor. A little topsoil graded correctly will help keep positive drainage away from your septic field.
- 7) Don't drive on your leach lines. Driving or parking anything larger than a residential lawn mower on your septic system isn't good for it. This compresses and consolidates the soil near your leach lines, and has the potential of collapsing the leach lines.
- 8) Keep your lawn mowed. Keeping your lawn closely mowed over your septic field during the summer helps. The sun and natural air movement will

help keep the area dryer overall, which helps the system tremendously.

- 9) Where does the basement sump pump drain? Make sure your sump pump is not connected to your septic system. Also, make sure the sump pump does not discharge anywhere near the area of the septic disposal system.

These septic tips aren't fail-safe, but they will help extend the life of your septic system.



The Town of Macedon in partnership with the Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition, are responsible for compliance with current NYSDEC and Federal EPA stormwater management requirements. These requirements are very complex and to tackle them on our own would be impractical. Maintaining your septic system in good operating condition, is one way you as a resident can help with our obligations as a Town of meeting the permit criteria.