# Why is it important to properly maintain my septic tank?

#### It saves you money.

Malfunctioning systems can cost \$3,000-\$7,000 to repair or replace compared to maintenance costs of about \$250-\$500 every three to five years.

#### It protects the value of your home.

Malfunctioning septic systems can drastically reduce property values, hamper the sale of your home, and even pose a legal liability.

**It keeps your water clean and safe.** A properly maintained system helps keep your family's drinking water pure, and reduces the risk of contaminating community, local, and regional waters.

### It keeps the environment clean.

Malfunctioning septic systems can contaminate local waterways with bacteria and other diseasecausing organisms.

How do I know if my septic system is not working properly?



## Mind the Signs!

Here are a few signs of septic system malfunction. If you discover any of these warning signs, call your health department immediately. One call could save you thousands of dollars.

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