

Hendricks County Health Department



Environmental Health

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM DURING NATIONAL SEPTIC-SMART WEEK

HENDRICKS COUNTY – Each year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) facilitates National SepticSmart Week to encourage homeowners and communities to take the necessary steps to maintain their septic systems. Today, September 16th, 2019 marks the beginning of this important reminder for all Hendricks County homeowners who have septic systems.

“Contamination to groundwater from poorly or untreated household sewage can create a danger to our water, soil, food, neighbors and families,” says Krista Click, Environmental Health Director for the HCHD. “You can protect environmental health and prevent illness by ensuring sewage is properly treated.”

When a septic system is poorly maintained, wastewater that contains dangerous bacteria, viruses, and chemicals leaks from the system and makes its way into water sources that are used by both community members and animals, leading to various infections or illnesses.

“Septic system maintenance can be boiled down into four basic categories: inspect and pump your system frequently, use your water efficiently, properly dispose of your waste, and care for your system’s drainage area,” says Ginger Harrington, Team Leader - Onsite for HCHD.

To be more specific, the EPA recommends that all homeowners with septic systems follow these steps to maintain their system and to prevent contamination:

- Have your system inspected every three years by a qualified professional
- Have your septic tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years
- Avoid pouring harsh products (e.g., oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications) down the drain
- Discard non-degradable products in the trash (e.g., floss, disposable wipes, cat litter) instead of flushing them
- Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from the drainage area and tank
- Repair leaks and use water-efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system
- Maintain plants and vegetation near the system to ensure roots do not block drains
- Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, biodegradable, and low- or phosphate-free

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For more general information about maintaining a septic system, visit the EPA's Septic Smart website, <https://www.epa.gov/septic>. To find permit information on a property's septic system visit <http://hcapps.co.hendricks.in.us/DataWarehouse/ParcelSearch.aspx>. Enter property owner name, address, or tax ID number. Scroll down the page for available permitting information. For more information about septic system maintenance and repair in Hendricks County, contact the Hendricks County Health Department at (317) 745-9217.