

## PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE TIPS

- DON'T** overload or abuse the system by adding excessive water or chemicals that clog the system or pollute the groundwater.
- AVOID** garbage grinders which add excessive solids to the system.
- DON'T** flush sanitary napkins, disposable diapers, cigarettes or other solid materials down the toilet.
- DON'T** pour oil or grease down the drain.
- DON'T** pour or flush solvents or acids into the system except for normal amounts of household cleaners.
- USE** water saving devices on sinks, showers and toilets - don't flush except when necessary.
- DON'T** connect roof drains or basement sump pump to the system.
- DON'T** allow leaky faucets or toilets to run. A system can overload from a continuous drop or trickle flow that is allowed to run constantly.
- CLEAN** the septic tank every 2-4 years and have baffles inspected.
- PROVIDE** an access riser or marker within 1 ft. of surface over the septic tank to locate and facilitate future maintenance.

### REMEMBER:

Treat your on-site sewage disposal system with the respect it deserves.

Protect your health,  
your investment  
and your environment.

# EarthCare

All County Division

## SEPTIC PUMPING REPAIRS INSTALLATIONS

YEAR ROUND  
24 HR. EMERGENCY SERVICE

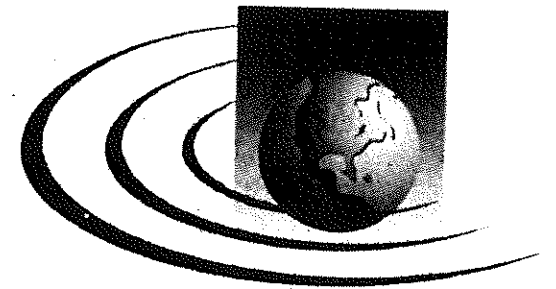
Toll Free	800-428-6166	Millwood	914-762-9411
Alpine	201-768-8877	Monroe	845-783-1729
Basking Ridge	908-766-1706	Monticello	845-794-2901
Beacon	845-831-6050	Mountindale	845-434-5577
Bedford Hills	914-666-8858	Morristown	973-540-1655
Brewster	845-279-9275	Newburgh	845-562-5040
Califon	908-832-9443	New Windsor	845-561-3355
Cold Spring	845-265-2055	Newton	973-383-9871
Dingmans	570-828-7748	Pawling	845-855-5055
Ellenville	845-647-3832	Pompton	973-838-1555
Franklin	973-827-7731	Port Jervis	845-856-2222
Franklin Lakes	201-891-0351	Ramsey	201-825-4474
Goshen	845-294-8299	Redhook	845-872-3034
Hackettstown	908-852-9818	Rhinebeck	845-876-5958
Highland	845-691-3793	Rockland	845-425-6336
Hopatcong	973-398-5353	Somerville	908-722-4452
Hopewell	845-221-0725	Succasunna	973-584-2840
Kingston	845-336-5503	Sussex	973-875-6002
Liberty	845-292-3679	Vernon	973-764-6100
Middletown	845-343-1500	Walden	845-778-1333

RECORD OF MAINTENANCE			
DATE	WORK PERFORMED	CONTRACTOR	COST

## HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE

# On-Site Disposal System Maintenance

HOW TO PREVENT  
COSTLY REPAIRS  
TO YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM



**EarthCare**  
All County Division

You can prevent unsanitary and costly on-site septic system failures and realize the greatest possible longevity of your system if you understand how your system works, why it may fail and what preventive maintenance measures you can take to avoid problems.

This brochure has been prepared for you by EarthCare, All County and is based in part on material from the technical manual and reference library of the Sussex County Planning and Health Departments which provides information to on-site system designers and installers. It represents "State-of-the-Art" design and construction practices that are the guidelines by which EarthCare, All County operates.

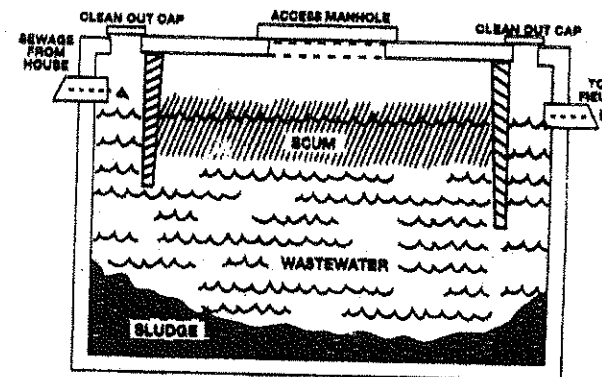
## HOW A SYSTEM WORKS

Raw sewerage flows into a watertight septic tank, trapping the solids and floating scum. The remaining liquid effluent is then piped to a drain field and purified as it passes through the soil.

Some effluent is drawn to the surface and evaporates. But most of it moves deeper into the ground and eventually replenishes the groundwater.

The conventional on-site system depicted here is standard. However, high water table, poor soils or steep slopes may require special alternative systems. Some areas may have severe limitations where on-site systems are not feasible.

## TYPICAL SEPTIC TANK



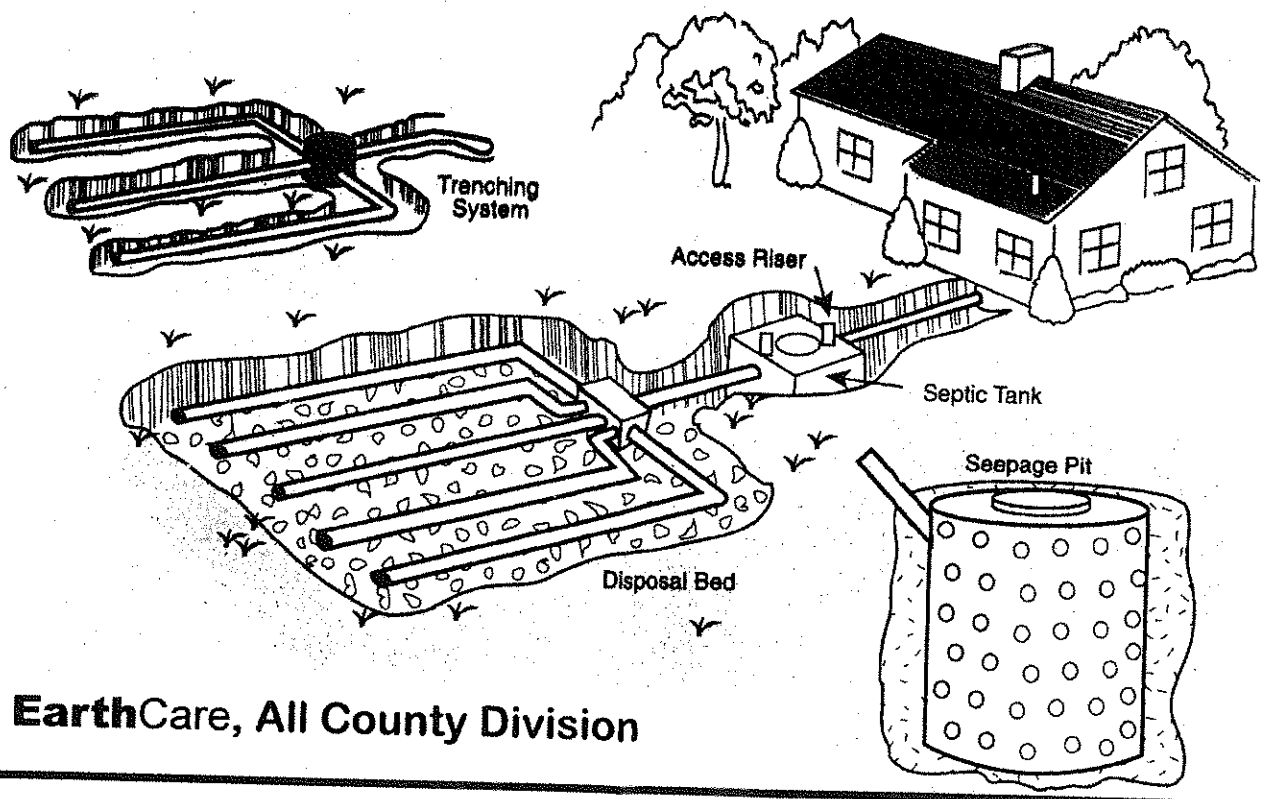
## HOW AND WHY A SYSTEM FAILS

When on-site systems fail, they may either overflow on the ground surface; back up into toilets or sinks; or pollute the ground and/or surface water.

The reason for such signs of failure include:

- **CLOGGING OF THE DRAINFIELD CAUSED BY NEGLECT IN HAVING ACCUMULATED SLUDGE PUMPED FROM SEPTIC TANK**
- **INAPPROPRIATE SYSTEM DESIGN**
- **POOR INSTALLATION**
- **HEAVY VEHICULAR TRAFFIC DIRECTLY OVER SYSTEM**
- **MECHANICAL FAILURE (BROKEN PUMP)**
- **EXCESSIVE SURFACE WATER RUNOFF**
- **EXCESSIVE WATER USAGE**
- **EXCESSIVE SOLIDS OR GREASE INTO THE SYSTEM**
- **ADDING HARSH CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES, ACIDS, PAINTS OR DISINFECTANTS TO THE SYSTEM**
- **OVERLOADING SYSTEM WITH SOLIDS FROM GARBAGE GRINDER**

## TYPICAL HOME SEPTIC SYSTEM



**EarthCare, All County Division**