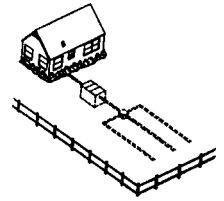


Maintaining Your Septic System

Over 75,000 homes and businesses in Gwinnett utilize septic systems for domestic waste disposal. A septic system consists of a septic tank and drainage pipes. Lack of maintenance of your septic system can result in expensive repairs and raw sewage overflowing into storm drains and local waterways. This not only damages the quality of our streams and creeks but can also cause serious health risks. You can help prevent these problems by:



Having your septic tank pumped by a certified pumping contractor every 3 – 5 years

Keeping heavy cars or equipment away from the area on your property where the pipes are located

Practicing water conservation. Repair leaky faucets and toilets. Excess water use can cause the system to saturate the soil, rise to the surface and flow into our streams.

- Not connecting your septic tank to the storm water drainage system

For more information on septic tank maintenance please contact the Environmental Health Section of the Gwinnett County Board of Health at 770-963-5132 or visit www.gwinnettstormwater.com to view the “Homeowners Septic Tank Guide” and to find out about upcoming septic tank maintenance workshops.

Comments or questions about this insert? Please call Gwinnett County Storm Water Management Division on 678-376-6929.

Where *does* your waste water go??

You brush your teeth, take a shower, use the bathroom, and load the dishwasher with breakfast dishes ready for another day! We don't think too much about the water we use in our daily routine, but as it flows down the drain have you ever wondered where all that waste water goes? There are two main methods for waste water disposal:

Sanitary Sewer: This system of pipes collects waste water and carries it to a treatment plant where the water is cleaned and treated before discharge to a waterway.

Septic systems: allow waste water to be disposed of onto the property where it was generated.

So which system do you use?

If you **do not** pay a sewer use charge on your water bill, you probably have a septic system. Septic Systems require periodic maintenance. If you have a septic system, it is important to familiarize yourself with its location and its requirements for operation and maintenance. For more information please see the other side of this insert.



**Septic Tank Maintenance Workshops are scheduled for this January.
See www.gwinnettstormwater.com for more information.**