



What can go wrong with my Septic System?

Problem	Cause
Backing up of septic system into household plumbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic tank needs pumping • Plugged pipes from house to septic tank • Blocked inlet or outlet baffle • Effluent screen plugged • Drainfield plugged or saturated and back flowing into septic tank
Soggy, saturated, lush growth or surfacing in drainfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydraulically overloaded due to leaky toilets or pipes, water usage above designed capacity, ground water intrusion into septic tank or pump chamber • Drainfield location in area of saturated soils • Invasive tree roots • Failure of an electrical component i.e. pump, alarm panel, tangled floats • Broken or plugged drainfield lines, manifolds, or transmission lines. Livestock and/or driving over drainlines • Use of garbage disposal (excessive solids) or grease down drain • Heavy antibiotic use • Distribution box becoming unlevelled, thereby saturating a particular area of drainfield.
Contaminated Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porous soils • High density of systems • Inadequate treatment
Alarms Sounding Frequently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive water usage or ground water intrusion into septic tank or pump chamber • Plugged or saturated drainfield backing up into pump chamber • Back siphoning of drainfield • Electrical component failure i.e. pump, tangled floats