

How's that septic system been doing?

Your On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF), also known as a septic system, can last nearly thirty years if you treat it properly!

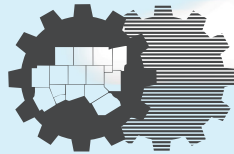
This brochure contains some handy advice for maximizing the longevity and performance of your OSSF and avoiding expensive system failures.

A healthy septic system makes for a happier, healthier home!

This brochure was created to support NCTCOG's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program.

A TMDL is an allowable limit for pollutants entering a body of water on a daily basis.

These limits are set to ensure bodies of water can support their designated uses as well as their natural ecosystems.



North Central Texas Council of Governments Environment & Development

North Central Texas Council of Governments presents

Hello, is your

Septic System healthy?

Why take care of your OSSF?

- Maintain reliable, proper functions
- Identify potential problems early
- Maintain quality water outflow
- Beneficial to personal, public, and environmental health and safety
- Upkeep is more cost effective than repairs or replacement

Why wouldn't you take care of your On-Site Sewage Facility?



This advice is not comprehensive; additional resources can be found online at nctcog.org/envir/natural-resources/tmdl

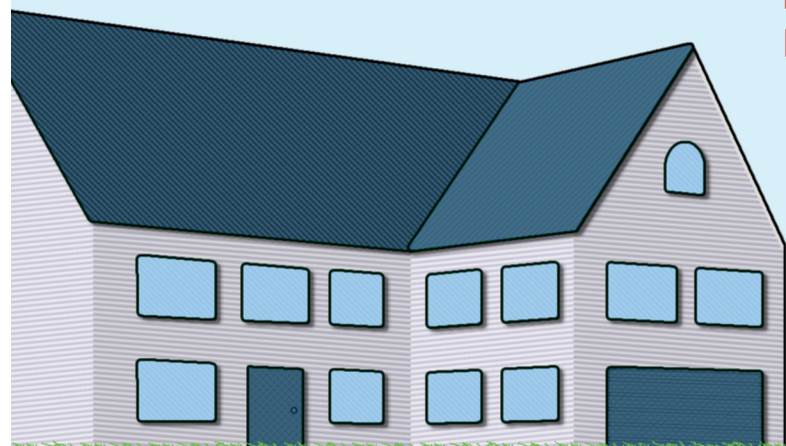
The creation of this brochure was financed through funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

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Best Practices for On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) Performance and Longevity

We're sure you'll agree: those pipes should only flow one way!

Some proactive advice to avoid
clogs or other system failures:



Pump your OSSF every three to five years to prevent system failures.

You don't want to learn you're overdue during a midnight trip to the bathroom!

Three P's: Pee, Poop, Toilet Paper
That's all that should be in the toilet.

No more, no less. Hygiene products, wipes, floss, etc. all go in the trash.

Don't FOG up your drains.

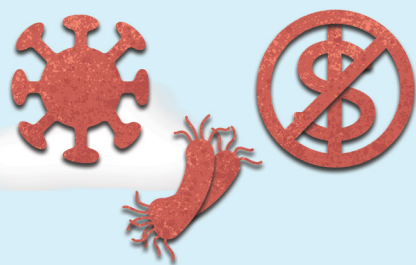
Avoid putting fat, oil, and grease (FOG) down the drain as these will solidify and clog your pipes.

Only put soft perishables through your garbage disposal.

Coffee grounds, eggshells, etc. will clog.

You've got friends in low places!

In your drain field, in fact.
The microbes in your drain field break down your system waste.
How many people would do that for you free of charge?



Your drain field is teeming with waste-processing microbes!

Try to keep them healthy!

Medicines, grease, bleach, and other cleaning products are toxic to your drain field ecosystem!

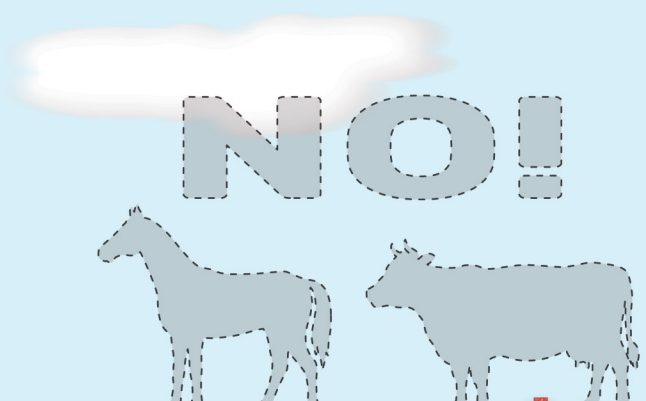
Collect those substances in separate containers for proper disposal.

Maintain a healthy lawn over your drain field to support the organisms breaking down your waste, prevent soil erosion, and absorb excess water and nutrients!



Rodeos and Patios have this in common:

You should never have one
on top of your drain field!



Let your septic system breathe!

Heavy objects like cars or livestock can compact the soil and damage your pipes.

Standing water should be avoided.

Landscaping features or gutters can be used to carry water away.

Never pave, lay gravel, or build over your field. Doing so will compact the soil and deprive it of oxygen.

Lawns only! Avoid planting trees, bushes, crops, or invasive plants.

