

DID YOU KNOW???

- There are nearly 11,000 Home Sewage Treatment Systems, often called Septic Systems, in Cuyahoga County, and over 235,000 in Northeast Ohio.
- According to a 2013 report by the Ohio Department of Health, 38% of the Home Sewage Treatment Systems in Northeast Ohio are failing.
- According to the same 2013 report, 49% of discharging systems - the most common type of system in Cuyahoga County - are failing. Discharging systems lack a leach field, instead discharging directly to the environment after passing through a septic tank or other form of pretreatment.
- Failing Home Sewage Treatment Systems pollute our water with bacteria, phosphorus and household chemicals.
- Properly maintaining your Home Sewage Treatment System contributes to the health of our water, families and communities.

Look inside for tips on how you can
Do Your Part - Be Septic Smart!



CUYAHOGA SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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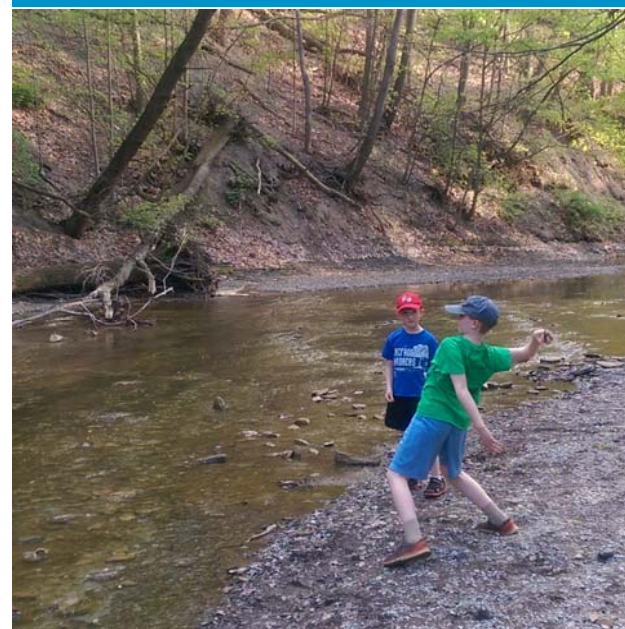
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Failing Septic Systems Pollute Our Water



Do Your Part - Be Septic Smart!



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Top 10 Ways to Be a Good Septic Owner

- ✓ Have your system inspected every three years by a qualified professional or according to your state/local health department's recommendations
- ✓ 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 drainfield and tank
- ✓ Follow the system manufacturer's directions when using septic tank cleaners and additives
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Prevent system freezing during cold weather by inspecting and insulating vulnerable system parts (e.g., the inspection pipe and soil treatment area)

