

Do I have problems?

What type of system do I have?

County Sanitarians maintain records of permits, inspections and certifications of legally installed septic systems. These records often include location drawings of important system features such as tanks, distribution boxes and discharge pipes for your septic system.

My system is old but seems to work fine, do I need to replace it?

If your system is maintained and is not failing or discharging water improperly, you do not need to have it replaced. You may consider adding a filter and access risers to older tanks to extend the life of your system and allow proper maintenance.

What do I need to do if I am going to sell my property?

If you have a recorded legal system on file at the Boone County Health and Sanitation Department all you need to do is:

- Provide evidence of tank pumping and inspection by a qualified contractor within the last three years.
- File a time of transfer certification form and pay the current fee.

If there is no record of a legal system, you will need to have your system inspected or upgraded through the permit process.



What we do:

- Educate the public on environmental health issues.
- Issue permits for new septic systems.
- Certification of existing systems at time of transfer.
- Regulate salvage yards and conduct annual inspections.
- Investigate nuisance, health, sanitation and illegal dumping complaints.
- Enforce Health and Sanitation Ordinance regulations.

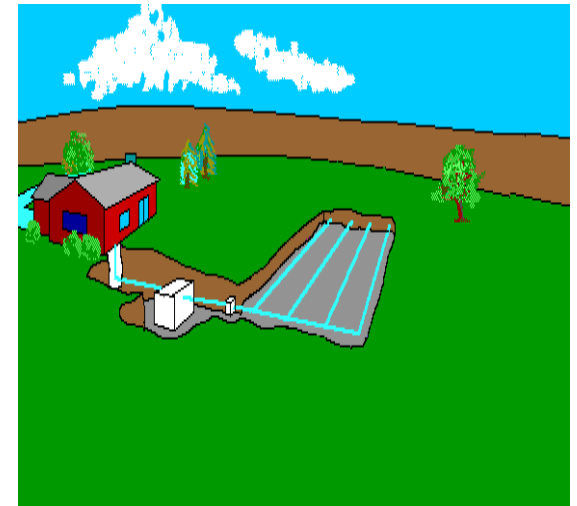
Visit us on the Web at: www.co.boone.ia.us

Boone County Health and Sanitation Department

Courthouse
201 State Street
Boone, Iowa 50036
Phone: 515-433-0506
Fax: 515-432-1636
E-mail: mikes@co.boone.ia.us

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

What You
NEED
to Know!



**BOONE COUNTY
HEALTH AND SANITATION
DEPARTMENT**

Importance of Maintenance

Proper operation and routine maintenance of your septic system will help to ensure that your system properly treats and disposes waste water while protecting the environment and the health of the users of your property.

Septic Systems work by settling out the solid waste particles and then treating the effluent (waste water) with naturally occurring bacteria. Systems are designed to dispose of the treated waters safely.

When the solid waste in the tank builds up to more than half the capacity of the tank, it is time to have the tank pumped out and serviced. For a typical septic system this should be done once every three to five years depending on system and water usage.



Regular Pumping extends the life of your system.

When toilets and drains run slow it is time to clean the tank filter (if equipped) or to have the tank pumped. If water is coming to the surface in the area of your septic system, this is an indication that the system is failing and needs attention.

Some systems can be renovated or repaired without a complete replacement. If you are having problems with your system, contact your County Sanitarian or qualified contractor for advice.

Septic System Facts

FACT or FICTION:

FICTION: If my toilet flushes, and goes down, that is all I need to worry about.

FACT: only a properly installed and maintained septic system treats and disposes of the waste safely to protect you and the environment and it's the law!

FICTION: My system has never been pumped and continues to work just fine.

FACT: older tank-less or tile systems connected to drainage tiles or waterways are illegal and spread contamination into surface, ground and well water.

FICTION: I should add bacteria or chemical additives to my system to "keep it healthy."

FACT: Sufficient bacteria normally exist in a septic system to keep it working properly and in fact adding commercial additives can actually harm your septic system.

If you have questions about maintaining your septic system, contact your County Health Department Sanitarian.



Do's + Don'ts

DO: Remove the filter and hose any particles back into the tank once every six months. Make sure to replace the filter and cover and consider installing a filter on older systems constructed without one.



DO NOT: Remove the filter and leave it out of your system.

DO: Wear rubber gloves when cleaning a filter.

DO: Keep kids and pets away at a safe distance.

DO NOT: send coffee grounds, cigarette butts, paper towels, feminine products or other non-biodegradable products into your septic system.

DO: Consider composting or throwing away food scraps instead of using a garbage disposal.



DO NOT: Dispose of paints, solvents, chemicals or other hazardous materials into your septic system.

DO: Use cleaning solvents and chemicals sparingly and in accordance with product directions.

DO: Contact your local solid waste management agency or landfill to find details on how to properly dispose of hazardous materials.

In Boone County contact the:

Boone County Landfill: 515-433-0591