

Septic Maintenance Checklist

A healthy system depends on controlled water, retained solids, protected soil, working components, and a complete record. The property-specific TDEC permit and service professional control your actual schedule.

Property	_____	TDEC record / permit	_____
System type	_____	Tank size	_____
Last pumped	_____	Next inspection	_____

Every day and every load

- ☐ Flush only human waste and toilet paper. Keep wipes, grease, food, paint, medicines, and hygiene products out.
- ☐ Spread laundry through the week. Avoid several large water loads back to back.
- ☐ Notice slow drains, gurgling, odors, alarms, and unusual wet or bright-green ground.

Monthly

- ☐ Check toilets, faucets, appliances, and water bills for leaks or unexplained use.
- ☐ Look at the tank and field from dry ground. Check for erosion, traffic, roots, runoff, or new construction risk.
- ☐ Confirm pump and aerobic panels show normal status. Do not disable alarm lights or buzzers.

Each year

- ☐ Review the permit sketch and keep active plus duplicate field areas marked and protected.
- ☐ Inspect alternative systems with pumps, floats, controls, filters, aerators, or drip parts on the required schedule.
- ☐ Update contact, contract, service, repair, alarm, and equipment records.

Professional inspection

- ☐ Plan a conventional-system inspection about every 1 to 3 years, adjusted for age, use, and local requirements.
- ☐ Have tanks, baffles, filter, levels, distribution, field, pumps, controls, and wiring checked as applicable.
- ☐ Ask for measured sludge and scum, observed defects, work completed, and the next service trigger in writing.

Pumping

- ☐ Most homes use a 3-to-5-year planning range, but measured solids, tank size, household, and system type control.
- ☐ Open proper service access and remove scum plus sludge. Do not accept a quick center-only pump as complete service.
- ☐ Never enter or lean over a tank. Keep lids secured and service access clear.

Protect the field

- ☐ No vehicles, structures, pavement, pools, livestock concentration, deep roots, excess fill, or utility trenches.
- ☐ Keep roof, sump, driveway, and uphill runoff away without cutting through approved soil.
- ☐ Use grass or suitable shallow-rooted cover. Keep irrigation and vegetable gardens off the field.

STOP WATER USE

Sewage backup or surfacing wastewater | active alarm with rising level | wet electrical equipment | broken lid or sinking tank area

Service and inspection log

Date	Provider	Work, measurements, or finding	Next action / date

Septic service	_____	Aerobic / pump service	_____
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