

Top tips for maintaining your sewage treatment system

Your private sewage treatment system may be out of sight, but make sure it's not out of mind. A few careful considerations will keep your system in tip-top condition.



Do

- > Check all parts of your system regularly.
- > Get your tank emptied by an Environment Agency licensed company when necessary – usually every 12 months.
- > Keep any lids and air vents clear, secure and in working order.
- > Use household products labelled as 'environmentally friendly', 'low phosphate' or 'suitable for septic tanks' to make sure you don't kill the useful bacteria in your system.
- > Use a sink strainer so stray bits of food don't end up going down the drain. If your sink is blocked, use boiling water rather than bleach or drain cleaners.
- > Try using natural cleaning products such as bicarbonate of soda, vinegar and lemon juice – they're just as effective and won't have any negative impact on your system.
- > Space out laundry and dishwasher loads to prevent too much wastewater and detergent entering your system all at once.

Don't

- > Flush anything down the toilet that doesn't belong there – it's a sure-fire way to shorten the life of any off mains sewage system.
- > Pour grease or cooking oil down any drain – pour it into a container and pop it in the bin.
- > Pour paint, solvents or chemicals down any drain – take them to your local tip.
- > Connect rainwater drainage pipes to your sewage system.

