Septic Maintenance Checklist for Cleveland, TN Homes

A simple, year-round plan for homeowners in Cleveland and Bradley County. Our red clay drains slowly, so routine care protects your drain field. Stick this on the fridge.

3–5 yrs	1,000 gal	⅓ full
Typical pumping interval for a family home	Common tank size for up to 3 bedrooms	Pump when sludge + scum reach about a third of the tank

EVERY MONTH

- [ ] Walk over the tank and drain field. Look for soggy ground or extra-green grass
- [ ] Check that drains in the house run at normal speed
- [ ] Fix running toilets and dripping faucets (they flood the tank)
- [ ] Test the alarm button if you have a pump or ATU system

SPRING

- [ ] After heavy rain, watch for slow drains or a sewage smell outside
- [ ] Point gutters and downspouts away from the drain field
- [ ] Check riser lids are secure and not cracked
- [ ] Mark the drain field before any landscaping or fence work

SUMMER

- [ ] Spread out laundry loads. Don't run 5 loads in one day
- [ ] Keep cars, trailers and pools off the tank and drain field
- [ ] Mow the drain field, but don't plant trees or shrubs on it
- [ ] Plan extra pumping if you're hosting a lot of guests

FALL & WINTER

- [ ] Book pumping before holiday crowds if you're near your interval
- [ ] Keep leaves off riser lids so you can find them
- [ ] In a hard freeze, keep water flowing and avoid parking on the field
- [ ] Don't pour cooking grease down the sink after holiday meals

SAFE FOR YOUR SEPTIC

- Toilet paper only (and human waste)
- Normal amounts of mild soap and detergent
- Water-saving fixtures and full laundry loads
- Regular pumping by a licensed pumper

KEEP OUT OF THE TANK

- "Flushable" wipes, paper towels, feminine products
- Grease, oil and fats
- Paint, solvents, pesticides, medicines
- Heavy bleach use and chemical drain cleaners

Your Septic System Record

A buyer, inspector or pumper will ask for this. Keeping it filled in saves time and can save you money when you sell.

Tank size (gallons) _____

Number of compartments _____

Year system installed _____

Permit number (TDEC or county) _____

Tank location (feet from house) _____

Riser / lid location _____

PUMPING & SERVICE LOG

Date	Company	Gallons	Sludge level	Filter cleaned?	Notes

HOW OFTEN TO PUMP

Tank	1–2 people	3–4 people	5–6 people
750 gal	4–5 yrs	2–3 yrs	1–2 yrs
1,000 gal	5–6 yrs	3–4 yrs	2 yrs
1,250 gal	6–7 yrs	4–5 yrs	2–3 yrs
1,500 gal	7–8 yrs	5 yrs	3 yrs

A rough guide. A garbage disposal, a home business or lots of laundry means pumping sooner.

CALL A PRO RIGHT AWAY IF

- Sewage backs up into a tub, shower or floor drain
- Drains gurgle or several drains slow down at once
- You smell sewage in the yard or house
- The ground over the drain field stays soggy after dry days
- A pump alarm keeps going off

Never open or climb into a septic tank yourself. Tank gases can be deadly.

NEED PUMPING OR AN INSPECTION?

Book online at **septicpumpingclevelandtn.com**. Serving Cleveland, Ooltewah, Charleston, Benton, Georgetown, Harrison, Ocoee, McDonald and Athens.