

Maintenance Guidelines for Septic Systems

- Practice water conservation. All water that a house sends down a drain enters the septic system. If less water is used, the less water ends up in the septic system.
- Water usage that is at 80% or greater of the daily design flow for the system shall be considered excessive.
- Drainfield area shall be landscaped to shed surface water and have ample vegetative cover to prevent erosion.
- Do not allow vehicular traffic to drive over or park on top of drainfield or any other component of the septic system.

Gravity system: Have the system inspected at least every three to five years by a septic service professional. The septic tank shall be pumped out by a certified septage hauler as needed or when the solids level is found to be more than 1/3 of the total liquid depth in any compartment (15A NCAC 18A .1961 (A)(2)). The effluent filter shall be cleaned or replaced as needed when the septic tank is pumped out.

Pump system: Have electrical components (panel, floats, pump) inspected once a year by a septic service professional. At inspection, pressure head shall be adjusted to height specified on original specifications. A septic system with a single effluent pump or siphon (Type IIIb) shall be inspected by the Local Health Department every five years (15A NCAC 18A .1961 (Table V(a))).

Drip System: See attached Owner's Manual: American "Perc-Rite" for maintenance of the wastewater drip system. An Operations and Maintenance contract with a certified Subsurface Wastewater Operator is required. The Drip system shall be inspected by the Local Health Department once a year (15A NCAC 18A .1961 (Table V(a))).