



Septic System Needs from Maine DEP

Ignoring your septic system needs can contribute to pollution of the lake. "A poorly-placed or poorly, maintained septic system can leak nitrogen and phosphorus, which fuels the growth of weeds and algae in lakes. Also bacteria, viruses and toxins can be released," says Kathy Hoppe, an environmental specialist with the DEP.

There are several steps that you can take to ensure your system runs properly.

Inspect your system annually. Have it pumped at least every three years.

Avoid treating your system like a garbage can. Some chemicals do not break down and may leach out as toxins.

Use low flow shower heads and toilets, conserve water and tune up inefficient washers.

Keep a file on your system, including a pumping schedule, age and location and installation information.

Don't plant aggressive trees or shrubs on or around your system.

Beware of locating your system near highly traveled areas. Trampling around above ground compacts the soil and can cause pipes to collapse.