

Septic Systems

Because of Pennsylvania's geology, soils, land development patterns, and aging septic systems, there's a risk of substandard septic systems contaminating our groundwater and surface waters—our streams, rivers, and lakes.

When surface waters are contaminated with viruses and bacteria from sewage, swimmers are at increased risk of contracting eye and ear infections, acute gastrointestinal illness, hepatitis, or other infectious diseases. When groundwater is contaminated, it may pollute your own and others' drinking water supply and spread disease in people and animals. Did you know viruses can survive in groundwater for more than a year?

The average lifespan of a septic system is estimated at 15 to 40 years, but it may last longer if properly maintained. Just like changing the oil in your car, maintaining your septic system extends its life for a small cost compared to the expense of installing a new system, which typically runs \$15,000 or more.

With proper operation and maintenance, your septic system will serve your home and help protect the waters of Pennsylvania for years to come. Do your part and be septic smart! For more information on system maintenance click on the following link:

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/My-Water/SepticSystems/Pages/default.aspx>