This District received funding for this project from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Contract Number 16379.
What causes septic systems to fail?

- Failure of the outlet tee clogs the drainfield with solids and does not allow grey water to leech into the soil. Sewage has nowhere else to go so it backs up into your house.

- Adding water to the drainfield at a rate faster than it can percolate down through the soil. This includes having leaky fixtures or a roof downspout that empties near your drainfield.

- Physical damage to the drainfield or distribution box caused by digging, tilling, or cars & heavy machinery passing over them.

- Adding substances like grease, paint, and large amounts of cleaning solution kill the bacteria that break down sewage solids. This causes solids to buildup faster than normal and can easily clog the inlet/outlet tees and the drainfield.

- Woody plants growing on or near your drainfield. Their roots can easily clog the drain lines by growing into them.

- No regular pumping maintenance based on septic tank size and the number of people living in your home. Example: 2 people using a 1,000 gallon tank should be pumped every 4 -6 years.

- Non-biodegradable or slow to degrade items like products that contain plastics and heavier paper products.

Cost Share Payment Amounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Share Payment Amounts</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pump out</td>
<td>50% of cost or $150 max (up to $240 low income)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump out &amp; Inspection</td>
<td>50% of cost or $1000 max (up to $1600 low income)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair</td>
<td>50% of cost or $2500 max (up to $4,000 low income)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional system</td>
<td>50% of cost or $4000 max (up to $6,400 low income)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional system with pump</td>
<td>50% of cost or $5000 max (up to $8,000 low income)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineered/Alternative system</td>
<td>50% of cost or $12,000 max (up to $19,200 low income)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Why?**

This program is entirely voluntary. Its purpose is to improve surface and ground water quality locally and downstream from you. Your participation in maintaining a working septic system or repairing a failing system will help keep excess fecal bacteria and excess nutrients out of streams. The cleaner our streams are, the more recreation, people, and wildlife they can healthily support.

**With our cost share funds and your minimal maintenance investment, you are buying peace of mind. You can help minimize the risk of installing a costly system in the foreseeable future.**

**A Common Septic System Problem**

An unlevel distribution box forces all of the septic wastewater into 1 drain line. This causes the water to appear above ground because the soil is saturated.

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