



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Greene County

Greene County Public Health

Melissa Howell, MS, MBA, MPH, RN, RS, Health Commissioner
Kevin L. Sharrett, MD, Medical Director

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Laurie Fox, Public Information Officer
937-374-5669 or 937-283-5178; lfox@gcph.info

Have a Septic System? Do Your Part...Be Septic Smart!

XENIA, OHIO – Greene County Public Health (GCPH) is partnering with the EPA’s SepticSmart Week, September 14 – 18, 2020, to help educate homeowners and communities on the proper care and maintenance of their septic systems. EPA’s SepticSmart initiative is a nation-wide public education effort with resources for homeowners, local organizations, and government leaders.

One in five U.S. homes have septic systems. Yours may be one of them. If your septic system is not properly maintained you may be risking your family’s health, hurting the environment, and flushing thousands of dollars down the drain.

Common in rural areas without public sewer service, septic systems are underground wastewater treatment structures that treat wastewater from household plumbing produced by bathrooms, kitchen drains, and laundry. However, this time-tested proven technology needs to be maintained properly to help save you money, protect your property value, and to keep you and your neighbors healthy.

Saves Money, Property Value and Health

Maintaining your septic system ultimately will save you money in the end. Based on how many people use a system, and the system’s size, will help to determine the maintenance service schedule. An unusable septic system or one in disrepair will lower your property value, and potentially can pose a costly legal liability. An unmaintained or damaged septic system will not treat household wastewater that can contain disease causing bacteria, viruses and high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, which can lead to contamination of your water well, contamination of your community’s groundwater, as well as risking contamination of nearby surface waters.

Between septic system service maintenance, remember:

- Think at the Sink – What goes down the pipes impacts your septic system
- Don’t Strain Your Drain – Use water efficiently and don’t overflow your septic system’s capacity
- Keep it Clean – Maintain your septic system to protect your well water
- Shield your Field – Roots, vehicles and livestock can damage your septic drain field
- Protect it and Inspect it – Regular septic maintenance can save thousands of dollars

360 Wilson Drive • Xenia, Ohio 45385
(937) 374-5600 • toll free (866) 858-3588 • Fax (937) 374-5675
www.gcph.info



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- Don't Overload the Commode – Don't use your toilet as a trash can, as disposable diapers, wipes and hygiene products can damage septic systems
- Pump Your Tank – Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended by a professional and/or local permitting authority.

Greene County Public Health protects public health and the environment by issuing permits and conducting inspections to ensure the proper installation, repair, and modification of septic systems in Greene County.

Each day, during the week of September 14-18, look for new septic system information, tips and resources posted on GCPH's social media pages including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/septic>. For more information on Environmental Health Services through GCPH, please visit http://www.gcph.info/public-health-programs/environmental_health or call 937-374-5607.

Celebrating 100 years of Greene County Public Health...
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