

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

MCHD HEALTH BLOG

The greatest wealth of a community is the health of the people.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
MORGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.



SEPTIC SMART WEEK

Next week (September 16-20), is SepticSmart Week. SepticSmart Week is an annual event organized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help bring attention to the importance of caring for and maintaining septic systems. Septic systems are underground wastewater treatment structures that treat and get rid of small amounts of wastewater from houses and businesses. Many Morgan County homes, as well as buildings that don't have access to a centralized public sewer system, often use septic systems.

According to the EPA, a few reasons why is it important to properly maintain your septic system include:

- It saves you money. Malfunctioning systems can cost thousands of dollars to repair compared to a few hundred dollars every 3-5 years.
- It protects the value of your home. Malfunctioning septic systems can drastically reduce property values, hamper the sale of your home and even pose legal liability.
- It keeps your water clean and safe. A properly maintained system helps keep your family's drinking water pure, and reduces the risk of contaminating community, local and regional waters. If you are on a well, you should test your drinking water regularly to ensure it remains clean and free of contamination.
- It keeps the environment clean. Malfunctioning septic systems can harm the local ecosystem by killing native plants and fish.

What can you do to help maintain your septic system?

- Protect it and inspect it. A typical septic system should be inspected every one to three years by a septic service professional. Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended your inspector.
- Think at the sink. Oil-based paint, solvents and large volumes of toxic cleaners should not enter your system. Limit use of your garbage disposal and avoid pouring fats, grease, solids and harsh chemicals down the drain.
- Don't overload the commode. Don't flush diapers, wipes or other items meant for a trashcan down the toilet.
- Don't strain your drain. Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances, such as your washing machine or dishwasher.
- Shield your field. Divert rain and surface water away and avoid parking vehicles and planting trees on your drainfield.

Have questions about maintaining your septic system? Call our office at 740-962-4572 and ask to speak with our Environmental Health staff.