

Septic System Care & Checklist

If your home is in a CMS large-lot community or on your land and has a septic system, you need to know the following information to care for your septic system properly.

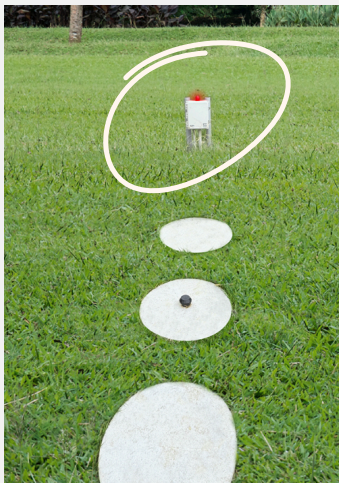


Find the Red-Light Alarm

Your septic system will have a red-light alarm on the tank or the aerator control panel in the basement. Should your alarm located outside at the tank go off, contact **Trinity Ditching** at:

- Office, 7 AM–12 PM, [636-462-2084](tel:636-462-2084)
- Emergency after hours, Kevin: [636-299-2134](tel:636-299-2134)
- All calls made after noon will be returned the next business day.

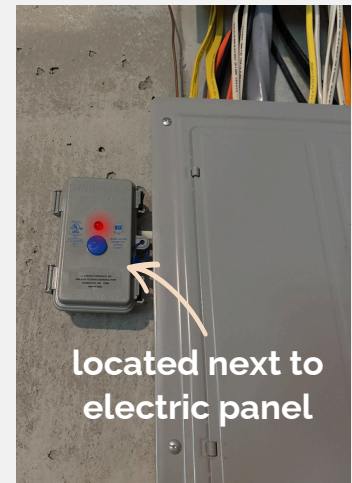
If the aerator alarm sounds in your basement, please call CJ Concrete Products, [636-456-8853](tel:636-456-8853), 6:30 AM–3 PM.



Outdoor Septic
Tank Alarm



Basement
Aerator Alarm



located next to
electric panel

Septic System Best Practices

The aim is not to harm the good bacteria in your system and stop clogs.

- Avoid chemical drain openers; use boiling water, a drain snake, or call your septic system professional if you experience a clog.
- Avoid overusing bleach for cleaning and laundry.
- Do not use dishwasher rinse aid; lemon or vinegar are good choices.
- Never pour ANY paints, solvents, or toxic cleaners down the drain.
- Eliminate or limit garbage disposal use to reduce fats, grease, and solids in the tank that could clog the drain field.
- Use faucet aerators, high-efficiency showerheads, and shower flow restrictors to reduce water use and volume entering your system.
- Washing machines:
 - Reduce water waste and volume by selecting an accurate load size for small loads; don't select a larger load fill than necessary.
 - Spread washing machine use throughout the week. Doing all the laundry in one day can harm your septic system by not allowing the tank enough time to treat waste, potentially flooding the drain field.
 - Get ENERGY STAR appliances (35% less energy and 50% less water usage).
- Use low-suds, biodegradable, phosphate-free soaps, detergents, and toilet bowl cleaners when possible.
- Do not ignore bad odors, backed-up drains, or sogginess around the drain field.
- Do not plant trees, shrubbery, or anything with a root system near the septic system.
- Do not drive or park vehicles on or disturb the drain field.
- Have a professional inspect and pump out about every 5 years, following the MO Department of Health guidelines.
- Prevent system freezing by inspecting/insulating vulnerable parts, such as pipes and soil treatment areas, and covering with leaves or a septic/sewer blanket in the fall.

Septic System Care Checklist: What Not to Use

It takes getting used to if you've never had a septic system before, so keep this list on hand to ensure you avoid or eliminate using these things in your household.

- ☐ Avoid using too much water at one time; spread laundry out over days
- ☐ Limit bleach or antibacterial soaps/cleaners
- ☐ No cat litter
- ☐ No chemical drain openers
- ☐ No cigarette butts
- ☐ No coffee grounds
- ☐ No condoms
- ☐ No cooking grease or oil
- ☐ No dental floss
- ☐ No diapers
- ☐ No dishwasher rinse aid
- ☐ No feminine hygiene products
- ☐ No harsh chemicals, such as gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze
- ☐ No household waste or food
- ☐ No paint/paint thinner
- ☐ No paper towels or facial tissues
- ☐ No pharmaceuticals
- ☐ No photographic solutions
- ☐ No wipes (baby/bath), TP ONLY!



Good Cleaning Agents: vinegar, baking soda, lemon juice, Borax, Dawn clear dish soap, eucalyptus oil; plant-based, phosphate-free, and bleach-free store-bought products.

For more details on how to care for your septic system, go to [the EPA's guidelines and watch their helpful videos here](#). If you have any questions or concerns about your CMS Homes septic system, please call Trinity Ditching at [636-462-2084](tel:636-462-2084), or our in-house team at [636-462-3500](tel:636-462-3500).