

GUIDANCE FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER A FLOOD



Background

This resource provides guidance for septic system users before, during, and after a flood. Understanding your septic system type, location, and components before a flood occurs will make this guide more useful. Please visit neha.org to access educational resources for septic system users.

Safety Reminders

Get help from a septic system service professional for steps with this guide. Contact your local service professionals through local utility or emergency extension services.

Make sure you turn off power to your septic system before you start any work. If you are unsure, contact your utility company for assistance.

Keep your feet dry when inspecting septic system components. Wash your hands before and after handling any septic system components. Do not touch or taste any septic system components.

Steps with a lightning bolt icon only apply to pressure-treated wood.

Get help from a septic system service professional if any of the steps feel unsafe in your situation or if your system loses power.

⚡

Before the Flood

5`k Uhg`_YYd`nci f`gYdh]WgnghYa `k Y`a U]bHJ]bYX/U`k Y`!a U]bHJ]bYX`gYdh]WgnghYa `]g` VYHf`UV`Y`hc`k`]h`ghUbX`h`Y`ghfYggYg`cZU` ccX`" Znci`"j`Y`]b`U` ccX`dfcbY`UFYUzHU`Y` these steps to protect your septic system.

Show and document all components of your septic system. Take photos of the
Vt`bbYV]cbg`UbX`gngghYa `Vt`a`dcbYbng`"H`YgY`d`chcg`k`]"`VY`Y`dZ`]"ZVt`a`dcbYbng`
UFY`XYghfcmYX`UbX`nci`bYXX`hc`fYd`UW`h`Ya`cf`"Y`]bgi`fUbW`WU]a`g`"A`U`Y`gi`fY`nci`f`
d`chcg`UbX`#cf`XcW`a`Ybng`]bW`XY.

Septic tank location

GYdh]WgnghYa`fYVt`fXg`cf`XfUk`]b`[`g

Electrical components

- Make sure the land around the manhole covers is sloped downwards so that

During the Flood

- Follow emergency and evacuation advice for your area.
- Eliminate all non-essential water use
- If the drain field becomes covered with water, do not use the system
- Try to find other toilets if your septic system is damaged.

- Reduce water use i b h]` h\ Y` gng hYa`]g`]bgd YV W X` Ub X` fY d U] fY X"

Avoid sending basement sump pump water into the septic system.

Re-route water from roof gutters Uk Um Z fca` h\ Y` X f U] b` Z] Y` X"

Take short showers

Limit laundry and dishwashing

Turn off the water k \]` Y` V fi` g\] b[` h\ Y` h\ ž g\ Uj`] b[` ž c f` f] b g] b[` X] g\ Y g

OTHER SYSTEMS

SOURCES

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www.neha.org