

## Septic System Tips

### Install it right!

- Use only a certified septic system installer. Call DEQ for assistance.
- Install a larger tank or pump more frequently if you plan to use a garbage disposal.
- Install septic system at least 75 feet away from a well or spring; 100 feet if the well is down slope.
- Do not install pavement, trees, or buildings on top of the absorption field.
- Keep a map showing where your tank, distribution boxes, and lateral lines are. This is easiest during installation.
- Divert water from downspouts and foundation drains away from your absorption field. Excess water can overload your system.

### Maintain it for long life and clean water!

- Never allow vehicles to drive over the septic tank or the absorption field.
- Have your septic tank pumped by a licensed pumper every 2 to 4 years, until you learn how fast sludge and scum layers build up.
- Use water saving devices. Reducing water flow extends system life and reduces pollution.
- Do not use any septic tank additives. They do not eliminate the need for periodic pumping and may shorten the life of your absorption field.
- Never dispose of solids, diapers, pesticides, solvents or toxic materials in your septic system. Toilet paper and normal household cleaners are OK.

## Where To Go For Help

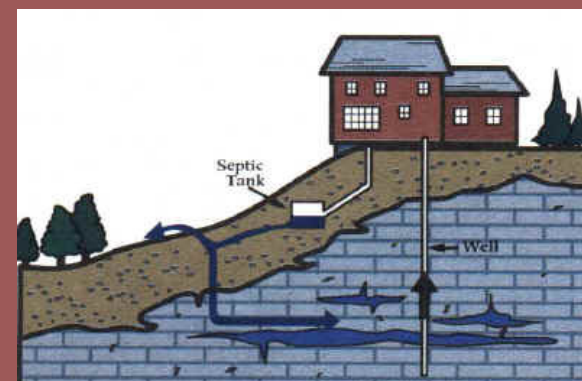
- **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** licenses installers and inspects and approves new installations. Call 1-800-522-0206 for information and the location of your local office.
- **County Conservation District** have information on programs to assist in system replacement.
- **County OSU Cooperative Extension Service** has publications and information on conventional and alternative septic system

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# MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM FOR A HEALTHY ILLINOIS RIVER



Courtesy Watershed Committee of the Ozarks



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Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service  
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