

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Please ensure.....


- Your wastewater treatment system complies with the EPA Manual, *Treatment Systems for Single Houses*.
- Your wastewater treatment system is inspected annually.
- Your wastewater treatment system is de-sludged when necessary.
- You use bleaches and disinfectants sparingly, as they can damage your wastewater treatment system by killing the bacteria which breakdown the wastewater.
- That rainwater or surface water does not enter your wastewater treatment system.
- That pesticides, paints, thinner, solvents, disinfectants or household hazardous waste are not discharged to your wastewater treatment system.

PHOSPHOROUS FREE DETERGENTS

Domestic wastewater contains a high level of phosphorous. Excess phosphorous can cause serious water pollution in rivers and streams. You can reduce the amount of phosphorous in your wastewater by using **phosphate-free detergents**.


Detergent with Phosphate

Ingredients	
Less than 5%	Polycarboxylates, Zeolite, Cationic,
15—30%	Phosphates



Detergent with reduced Phosphate

Ingredients	
Less than 5%	Polycarboxylates, Phosphonates
15—30%	Zeolite



Further Information:

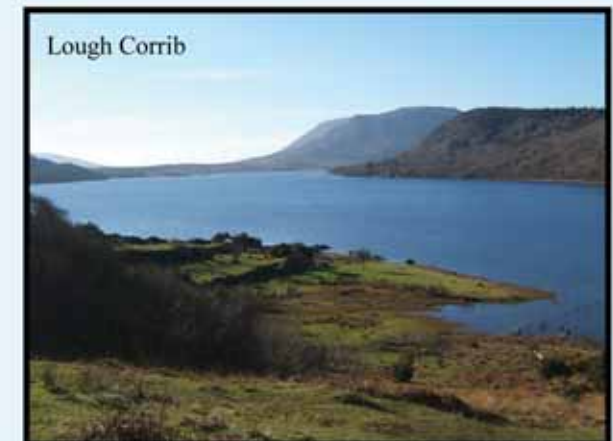
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Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

SEPTIC TANK AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM INFORMATION



**PROTECTING OUR
WATER QUALITY**

In your home.....

You need to ensure that you have an adequately sized and well maintained wastewater treatment system. Wastewater treatment systems consist of an initial treatment unit such as a septic tank or proprietary treatment system which flow into a constructed percolation area.

Poorly maintained or inadequate wastewater treatment systems can impact on the health of your family, your community and your environment through the:

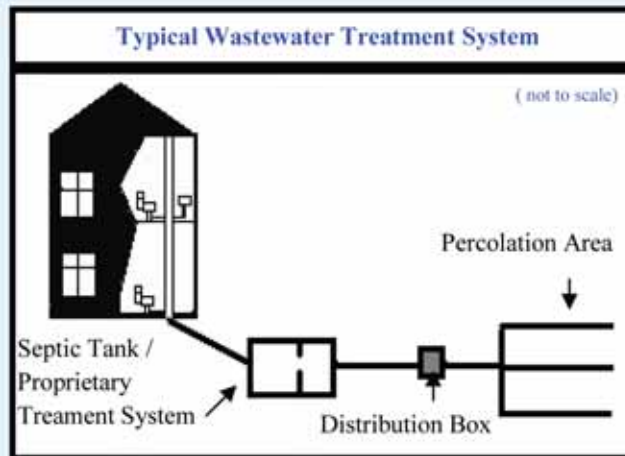
Contamination of water bodies including Rivers, Streams, Groundwater, Wells, Lakes, Beaches and Bays.



Sewage Fungus in a Stream

If your treatment system is not working properly, the following problems can arise:

- Bad odours in the house or garden
- Slowly draining toilets or sinks
- Ponding of water or damp ground near the system
- Vigorous plant growth near the system
- Pollution in nearby drains or streams



Remember: It is an offence to allow untreated domestic wastewater to discharge to groundwater or surface water.

Please ensure that ...

Your wastewater treatment system and percolation area is designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the EPA Wastewater Treatment Manual for Single Houses.

Septic Tank Desludging

The average households septic tank should be de-sludged every 1-2 years. The desludging should only be undertaken by permitted collectors (list available from Environment Section or www.connachtwaste.ie).

Proprietary Treatment System Desludging

These systems also require regular desludging. A **maintenance contract** should be entered into with the supplier.

Remember: If you intend to alter your treatment system, you should consult Galway County Council's Planning Section.