

GUEST SEASON & YOUR SEPTIC: HOW TO HOST WITHOUT OVERLOADING YOUR SYSTEM

With the holiday season around the corner, many homes host guests, large meals, and extra activities—meaning more water use, more drains being used, more desserts, more everything. For homeowners with a septic system, this seasonal surge can put extra strain on your system if you’re not prepared.

Here’s how to get ahead of it and host with confidence.

Why the Holidays Matter for Your Septic System

Your septic system is made to handle your typical everyday routines. But when you throw in a few extra showers, heavy cooking, dozens of dishes, and guests staying overnight, you could

unintentionally overload the system.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the key parts of septic system care are: inspecting and pumping frequently; using water efficiently; properly disposing of waste; and maintaining your drainfield. (EPA)

A good reminder is to stagger use of water-based appliances during the holiday season so your drainfield and tank don’t get overloaded. (EPA)

If your tank is full or the drainfield is stressed, you could face backups, foul odors, soggy yard or even system failure—*exactly the kind of stress no one wants around a party.*



SMART HOSTING TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR SEPTIC

Here are homeowner-friendly steps you can take now:

Schedule a pre-holiday inspection or pump-out. If you haven’t had your tank inspected in the last 1–3 years (and pumped in the last 3–5 years), now’s the time. The EPA recommends inspecting every 1–3 years and pumping every 3–5 years depending on tank size, household use, etc. A pump-out gives your tank more capacity to absorb the extra volume coming from big meals and overnight guests.

Stagger water use

Avoid doing all the laundry, loads of dishes, and showers in a single morning. Spread them out throughout the day instead. This helps give your system time to treat the waste rather than being slammed all at once. The “Don’t Strain Your Drain” principle is part of EPA’s guidance.

Be guest-friendly—ban the “oops” items

Many guests aren’t aware of what your septic system does or what it doesn’t like. Post a note in the bathroom: “Only human waste & toilet paper—please!” Remind them not to flush wipes, paper towels, feminine hygiene items, grease, or oils. In the kitchen: scrape food scraps into the trash instead of using the garbage disposal. Heavy grease or food load from holiday cooking can quickly overload your tank.

Planning a big family dinner, out-of-town guests, or holiday house full of laughter and cooking? Let Sim Sanitation help make sure your septic system is ready.

Book your pre-holiday inspection or pump-out today and host without worry. [Contact us now →](#)