

The Hidden Dangers of DIY Septic Maintenance

A lot of folks try to cut corners—usually to save money. Septic systems aren't glamorous, and nobody loves spending on something they can't see. But trying to fix or install your septic system on your own is a recipe for disaster.

A Real-Life Example: The IBC Tote Disaster

In March 2025, Pumper.com highlighted a troubling incident —A pumper was called out to locate and pump a septic tank. for a family that had recently purchased a home. But when he arrived, he didn't find a standard

system. Instead he discovered something unexpected — under a piece of tin was a homemade septic tank made from an old IBC tote.

It might've seemed like a clever workaround at the time, but the consequences were serious. The tank wasn't up to code, wasn't the right size, and offered zero durability. This kind of thing isn't rare. Homeowners often try to piece together septic fixes with whatever's lying around, not realizing that these "quick fixes" usually end up causing more damage —and more expense—down the line.

Thinking of fixing your septic system yourself? Think again.

DIY septic work might seem like a way to save money, but it often leads to bigger problems—like system failures, safety hazards, or legal trouble. Without the right tools and training, you risk damaging your system, exposing yourself to toxic gases, or contaminating your property. In the long run, it usually costs more to fix a DIY mistake than to call a pro in the first place. When it comes to septic systems, it's safer—and smarter—to leave it to the experts.

Why It's Risky to Go It Alone

Here's what most people don't realize septic systems aren't just tanks in the ground. They involve bacteria-driven waste breakdown, buried piping networks, and in many cases, pumps and filters—all designed to work together. When someone with no training opens a tank or starts digging, here's what can go wrong:



- Septic systems contain toxic gases like methane and hydrogen sulfide, which can be dangerous if inhaled.
- Improper installation or repairs can cause backups, groundwater contamination, or even system collapse.
- Insurance typically won't cover damage caused by unlicensed work.
- And in many places, DIY septic work is illegal and could get you fined.
It's just not worth it.

What You Can Do Instead

- Schedule routine maintenance every 3–5 years (or more frequently for large households).
- Be mindful of what you flush—no wipes, grease, or harsh chemicals.
- If you notice signs like slow drains, odors, or wet patches in the yard, don't ignore them—call a pro.

We're Here to Help

At Sim Sanitation, we're a family-owned business that believes in doing the job right. We treat your home like we'd treat our own. No nonsense, no scare tactics—just honest, experienced service that keeps your system running right. So before you try to handle a septic issue yourself—give us a call. We'll keep your family safe, your yard clean, and your system working the way it should.

Contact Sim Sanitation today to schedule your inspection or service.

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