

HOW HOT WEATHER IMPACTS YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Septic system might be feeling the heat in a very different way. While septic systems are built to last, hot weather and increased summer water use can push them past their limits if you're not careful. Let's break down how summer conditions can impact your septic system—and what you can do to keep things flowing smoothly all season long.

Dry Soil Can Stress Your Drainfield

Your septic system's drainfield is designed to naturally filter and absorb wastewater into the soil. But in hot, dry months, soil can become compacted or too dry to absorb water properly. When that happens, wastewater can start to back up or rise to the surface — causing foul smells or soggy spots in your yard.

What you can do:

- Avoid parking cars or placing heavy objects on your drainfield.
- Keep the area around your drainfield covered in grass (not gravel or plastic) to prevent drying and aid absorption.
- Limit outdoor water use like irrigation near the drainfield.

Increased Water Use Can Overwhelm Your Tank

Summer brings houseguests, parties, and more time spent at home — all of which lead to higher water usage. More showers, laundry, and dishes mean your septic tank fills up faster and may not have time to process waste before more flows in. This kind of overload can push solids into the

drainfield, clogging it and causing expensive damage.

Simple ways to reduce the load:

- Spread laundry loads throughout the week instead of all at once.
- Fix leaky faucets or toilets immediately.
- Install water-saving devices like low-flow showerheads and toilets.

Summer Cleanups Can Kill Beneficial Bacteria

During summer, many homeowners tackle big cleaning projects using strong chemicals. But remember — what goes down the drain affects your septic tank. Harsh cleaners and disinfectants can kill the beneficial bacteria your tank relies on to break down waste.

Better alternatives:

- Choose septic-safe, biodegradable cleaners.
- Avoid pouring paint, solvents, bleach, or antibacterial cleaners into

sinks or toilets.

- When deep-cleaning outdoors (like pressure washing), divert water away from your septic area.

Summer Is the Smart Season for Maintenance

Because the ground is dry and accessible, summer is an ideal time to have your system inspected or pumped. If it's been 3–5 years since your last pump-out, now's the time to call a licensed professional. Regular inspections can catch small issues — like tree root intrusion or minor leaks — before they become full-blown septic emergencies.

Take Care of Your System — So It Can Take Care of You

Your septic system might be out of sight, but in the summer, it should never be out of mind. By being aware of how hot weather and summer habits affect your system, you can avoid backups, preserve your drainfield, and save thousands in repairs.

Need help or not sure when your system was last serviced? Reach out to Sim Sanitation — we'll help you keep things clean, cool, and under control.

