



STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Septic Tank 60 Second PSA

Half of Alabama residences use a septic tank, are you one of them? Septic tanks are used where municipal sewers are not available and maintenance is important.

Failing septic tank systems can endanger your family, pollute the environment, and be expensive to repair. So know the warning signs: wet spots in your yard, slow draining toilets or drains, gurgling sounds in drains, and sewage odors.

You can prevent your system from failing by having your tank pumped every 3 to 5 years, keeping a separate container for grease and disposing of it properly, using detergents low in phosphates, and spreading laundry loads over several days as to not overload the system with too much water.

You need a permit before installing a new system or before repairing an existing one. Your local health department has a copy of the septic tank system permit that indicates the location of your system and the size of the tank.

This is State Health Officer Doctor Scott Harris. For more information visit [w-w-w dot Alabama public health dot gov](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov).

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