

What about septic tank additives?

While some makers of septic tank additives claim their products break down septic tank sludge so you don't need to pump your system, the **effectiveness of additives hasn't been proven**. In fact, many studies show that additives have no significant effects on a tank's bacterial population.

Your septic tank already contains the microbes it needs to break down your household waste. **Periodic pumping and regular maintenance, not additives**, are the only ways to ensure the longterm health of your septic system!

Your local health department can help you find certified and licensed professionals.

If you have:

- Wastewater backing up into household drains,
- A strong odor around the septic tank and drainfield, **and/or**
- Bright green, spongy grass appearing on the drainfield, even during dry weather,

You might have a failing septic system!

Don't wait for a problem to occur. Contact your local health department about regular maintenance today.

Your Local Health Department Is Here to Help!

For questions about septic systems, call on the local experts:

- **City of Gary: Department of Health and Human Services**
219-881-5275
- **Lake County Health Department**
219-755-3655
- **LaPorte County Health Department**
LaPorte Office:
219-326-6808 x2200
- **Porter County Health Department**
Valparaiso Office: 219-465-3525
- Portage Office: 219-759-8239



Some language in this brochure is adapted from: epa.gov/septic/septicsmart-homeowners



For more information on how you can be Septic Smart, please visit:
www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich



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Be A Good Neighbor...
Septic System Care
Depends On **YOU!**

A simple guide to the proper care and maintenance of your septic system.

