

ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

Septic to Sewer Transition Period Guidance

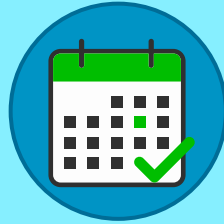
2021

The best way to minimize your septic system costs and protect groundwater quality while we work to bring a community wastewater treatment system online is to perform regular recommended maintenance and inspection.

Maintain Your Septic System



- Follow [good practices](#) in use and maintenance of your system, including tank inspection, pumping, and preventing prohibited materials and chemicals from entering into your system.



- Regular recommended maintenance will help ensure your system remains functional until sewer connection is available.

Avoid Costly Repairs During the Septic to Sewer Transition Period



- If your qualified pumper or other inspector recommends major repairs, get a [second opinion](#), and verify the timing of repairs.



- Learn more about understanding and identifying system failures and causes [here](#).

YOUR SITUATION	RESPONSE
Septic System Functioning Properly	Continue with routine maintenance and annual inspections.
Minor Damage to Septic Tank	Continue with routine maintenance and annual inspections.
Suspected Deteriorated or Severely Damaged Septic Tank, as determined by your qualified pumper or other inspector	Get a second opinion from a local qualified contractor or engineer to confirm if tank requires replacement. If tank does not require replacement, continue with professionally recommended routine maintenance and inspection frequency.
Imminently Failing/Failed Tank	Contact County Environmental Health Services (EHS) to verify next steps. Replace as required by EHS including application & fee . Contact LOCSD to help you with County communications and requirements if desired.
Failed Dispersal Field	Replace as required by County EHS including application & fee . Consult with County EHS for replacement timing. Contact LOCSD to help you with County communications and requirements if desired.
Expand, Move or Install New Onsite System* (new construction or system failure and replacement)	Supplemental treatment needed, with an operating permit with specified conditions for operation and maintenance. See Application Procedures and Permit .

*County EHS treats modifications to increase existing onsite system capacity OR to move an existing onsite system as a new onsite system.



Contact Info:

- Los Olivos Community Services District
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- Santa Barbara County
Environmental Health Services
phdehsweb@sbcphd.org | 805.346.8460
- Santa Barbara County
Board of Supervisors 3rd District
mdietenhofer@countyofsb.org | 805.686.5095

Resources

- [Santa Barbara County Liquid Waste Program Information](#)
 - [Your Septic System: A Reference Guide for Homeowners](#)
 - [Presentation to Homeowners](#)
 - [Local Area Management Plan](#)
- [State Water Resources Control Board OWTS Policy](#)

Helpful Articles:

- [Early Signs that You Need Septic Repair](#)
- [Be Septic Smart: Avoid Problems](#)