



# Sceptical About Your Septic Facilities?

Untreated or improperly treated wastewater threatens the lake's biological equilibrium and represents a risk to the human health and quality of life. Septic systems may discharge contaminants like phosphorus and pathogenic microbes. Excessive phosphorus supply is harmful to lakes and rivers because it promotes the excessive growth of algae and aquatic plants. Here are some suggestions that are simple to implement and that will preserve YOUR health and that of the lake.



Respect the capacity of your septic system by reducing water consumption and allowing for "down times" so oxygenation can take place. The bacteria that purify water need oxygen to work effectively.

Spread out your consumption over the day and the week. Don't waste water:

- Repair leaks.
- Take showers instead of baths.
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth and washing food.
- Install water saving devices.



The toilet should not be used to dispose of substances that do not decompose naturally (or that break down extremely slowly) like cigarette butts, medicines, paint, sanitary napkins. Some chemical products (Javel, Borax...) can actually destroy the useful bacteria in your septic system.



Septic tank

## Pump it out!

Every 2 years for permanent residences.

Every 4 years for seasonal residences.

Use phosphate-free domestic products.



Stop cutting grass and plant indigenous vegetation on the shoreline. Plants will filter and absorb some of the nutrients.



## Acquired rights?

Some older facilities do not conform to current standards. You may have a sump and no drainage field. You are permitted to maintain this type of facility under certain conditions only if it is not a source of pollution or contamination to surface and drinking water. It is recommended that you install a newer system that meets provincial regulations. Did you know that the lifetime of a well-maintained septic system might not exceed 20 years? How old is yours? Have you had it inspected recently? Check with your municipality.



Do not compromise the aeration of your drainage field with asphalt or tiles, and don't park vehicles. Do not use this area as a playing field or to plant trees.

If you're planning to install a septic system, be sure to respect the regulations (minimum distance from a well, lake or property...). Consult your municipality and the government regulation Q-2, r.8. You'll be less sceptical and better informed.

To learn more: [www.troussedeslacs.org](http://www.troussedeslacs.org)