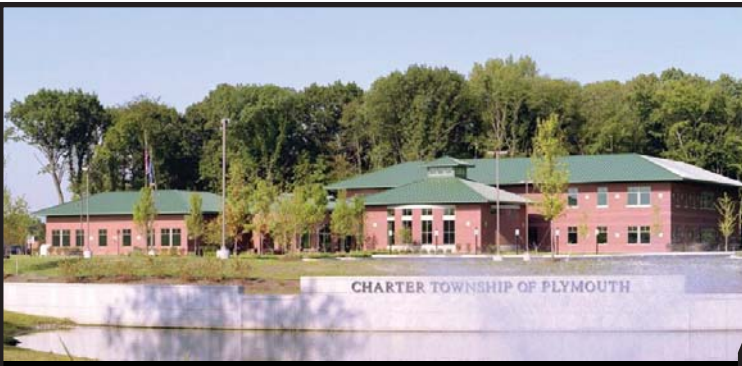


CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH FACT SHEET

YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM AND THE ROUGE RIVER

Rouge River Series



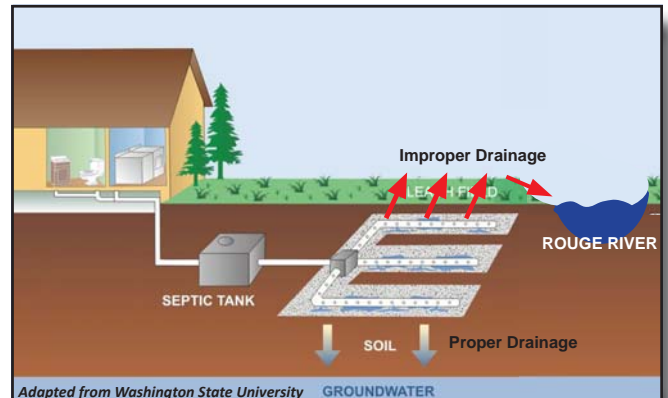
Does your household use a septic system for wastewater treatment? If so, it has the potential to negatively affect water quality in the Rouge River Watershed if not maintained properly.

The Rouge River Watershed encompasses all the land area and waterways that drain into the Rouge River. So if your septic system isn't correctly located, adequately designed, carefully installed and properly managed, it may be contributing to pollution in the Rouge River, which affects everybody!

How Does a Septic System Work?

Septic systems are wastewater treatment systems that use septic tanks and drain fields to dispose of sewage in the soil. The tank receives untreated household waste, bacteria break down the solid material and the drain field distributes the remaining liquid from the septic tank to the surrounding soil. The soil then acts as the final filter for wastewater treatment.

A septic system that is not draining properly can lead to sewage bubbling up to soil surface of your yard which can cause human and animal illness, contaminated water supplies, and costly repair bills!



Signs of Malfunctioning System

- Toilet and/or sinks running sluggish.
- Sewer odors in the house.
- Sponginess around the septic tank or field area and surfacing raw sewage.



Improperly Draining Septic Field



Charter Township of Plymouth
FACT SHEET
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Rouge River Series

TIPS

Try these strategies to help keep your system working properly and safely for you and your family.

Inside

- Conserve water by buying appliances that use less water.
- Keep kitchen garbage disposal use at a minimum. Try a backyard compost pile instead.
- Don't put hazardous chemicals down the drain-bring unwanted chemicals to a household hazardous waste collection. Call 734-354-3270 ext. 4 for information on the next available event.
- Buy earth-friendly, natural cleaners instead of chemical based cleaners.
- NEVER use your toilet like a trash can! Coffee grinds, kitty litter, paper towels, tampons, dental floss, cigarette butts, pesticides, paints, oils, etc., can overtax or destroy the beneficial bacteria in your system and pollute the water.

Outside

- Learn the location of your septic tank.
- The drain field should only be covered with grass; don't plant trees or shrubs - their roots are too long. Keep the grass cut to around 2-3 inches. The cut grass helps remove nutrients from the field and increases evaporation.
- Inspect the area around your tank regularly for any improper drainage on the surface of the field.
- Hire a professional septic service to clean and inspect your tank every three (3) to five (5) years.
- Keep a maintenance record of the tank and drain field.

General Safety Tips

- If you are having problems such as sewage backup, slow drains, unpleasant odors or visible liquid on the ground by the system, immediately contact your county health department. Wayne County Health Department can be reached at 734-727-7000.
- Toxic gases are produced in the tank and are very dangerous, so don't ever go down into the tank. Even lifting the lid to look inside can be dangerous.

