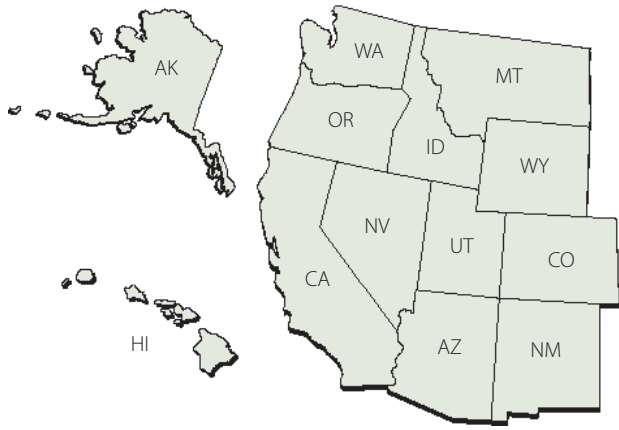


About RCAC

RCAC serves rural communities in the western United States and Pacific islands



**For information about septic systems in your area,
contact your local Environmental Health Department or visit:**

www.epa.gov/septic/dos-and-donts-homeowners-brochure

Corporate Office

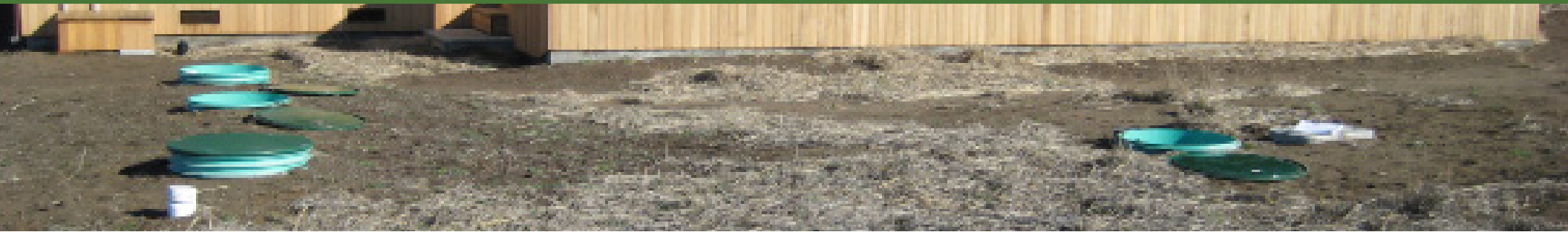
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Septic System Maintenance

Tips and Resources





Septic systems can do a great job. However, some septic systems can become problematic when they fail



Septic systems can fail due to:

- lack of maintenance
- improper design
- improper construction
- improper operation

What is septic system failure?

Septic system failure occurs when wastewater contaminants originating from a septic system:

- back up into homes
- reach the drainfield surface
- can be found in ground or surface water in high enough concentration to cause a risk to public health or the environment

Household Tips:

Do not put these down the drain!

- Diapers, cat litter
- Cigarettes, coffee grounds
- Fats/oil/greases
- Household chemicals
- Personal care products
- Gasoline, oil, pesticides
- Antifreeze, paint, flushable wipes etc.

Conserve water by:

- Repairing leaking faucets
- Installing low water-use fixtures
- Washing only full laundry loads and spreading them out throughout the week
- Using a commercial laundromat
- Spreading heavy water use throughout the day
- Monitoring your water use
- Lowering water pressure

Around the septic system area:

- If possible, fence off drainfield to prevent foot traffic and driving/parking
- Driving/parking on a drainfield will compact the soil and lead to failure
- Do not plant trees on the drainfield, remove them if they're present
- Plant grass over drainfield to prevent erosion and promote evaporation
- Prevent stormwater runoff to the drainfield