



## Getting serious about sewage

Septic tanks. Cesspits. Package sewage treatment plants. When they work, they're great. But like anything else, if you don't look after something, it'll fail. It could start to smell, spread disease, pollute local rivers and seas... and nobody wants that.

Household wastewater is brimming over with bacteria and viruses, as well as high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. If your system is working well, it will have no problem removing these pollutants.

If not, you could be churning out untreated sewage, releasing bacteria, viruses and toxic chemicals to local streams, rivers, lakes and seas. This could be harmful for humans – increasing the chances of infectious diseases such as eye and ear infection and gastrointestinal illnesses – as well as damaging to local wildlife, with pollutants killing native plants, fish, and shellfish.

## Top tips for maintaining your sewage treatment system

Your sewage treatment system may be out of sight, but make sure it's not out of mind. A few careful considerations will keep your system in tip-top condition.

### Do

- > Check all parts of your system regularly and keep any lids and air vents clear and secure.
- > Use 'environmentally friendly' and 'low phosphate' products. Or try using natural cleaning products such as bicarbonate of soda, vinegar and lemon juice.
- > Use a sink strainer so stray bits of food don't end up going down the drain.
- > Space out laundry and dishwasher loads to prevent too much water entering your system at once.

### Don't

- > Flush anything down the toilet that doesn't belong there – it's a sure fire way to break any system.
- > Pour grease or cooking oil down any drain.
- > Pour paint, solvents or chemicals down any drain.



## Emptying your sewage treatment system

Sewage treatment systems need emptying – septic tanks and sewage package treatment plants about every twelve months and cesspits more often. It's worth finding a specialist contractor or company that deals with the maintenance of treatment plants and septic tanks. You'll be able to find local professionals online and you can use our campaign website for further guidance.

## Want to know more?

Whether you live, work or are visiting the beautiful coasts and countryside of Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire and Merseyside, you'll find lots of useful information on [www.callofnature.info](http://www.callofnature.info)

Download our campaign toolkit and use the website for useful information.

And please, do the right thing when you need to answer the call of nature.

*Look after your*  
sewage treatment system  
and help keep our rivers clean

