

GUIDANCE FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER A FLOOD



Background

This resource provides guidance for septic system users before, during, and after a flood. Understanding your septic system type, location, and components before a flood occurs will make this guide more useful. Please visit neha.org to access educational resources for septic system users.

Safety Reminders

Get help from a septic system service professional for steps with this **gna Vc**. **Wb** bX gYdhjWgnghYa service professionals through local \YU h XYdUfha YbhgžXYdUfha Ybhg cZ Ybj jfcba YbhU ei U jmāXYdUfha Ybhg cZbU h fU fYgci fWgžcf i b j Yfg j m extension services.

Make sure you turn off power to h Y gYdhjWgnghYa UbX U W fXg UfY i bd i [[YX VYZcfY jbgdYVW j b [h Y UfYU H YfY jg XUb [Yf cZY YVW f W g c W UbX XUa U [Y h c n e i f gYdhjWgnghYa . "

K YUf fi VVYf [c j Yg UbX YmY protection when inspecting septic system components. Wash your \UbXg h c f c i [\ n z h f c k Uk Um [c j Yg ž UbX k Ug \ Ubm W e b h Ja j b U h Y X W c h Y g k \ Y b Z j b g \ Y X "

Steps with a **gna Vc** only apply to pressure X j g h f j V i h j c b g n g h Y a g "

Get help from a septic system service professional if any of the steps feel unsafe in your situation or if your system loses power.

y\$

Before the Flood

5`k Uhg`_YYd`nci f`gYdh]WgnghYa `k Y`a U]bHJ]bYX/U`k Y`!a U]bHJ]bYX`gYdh]WgnghYa `]g` VYHf`UV`Y`hc`k`]h`ghUbX`h`Y`ghfYggYg`cZU` ccX`" Znci `]j`Y`]b`U` ccX`dfcbY`UFYUzHU`Y` these steps to protect your septic system.

Show and document all components of your septic system. Take photos of the
Vt`bbYV]cbg`UbX`gngghYa `Vt`a`dcbYbng`H`YgY`d`chcg`k`]`VY`Y`dZ` `]ZVt`a`dcbYbng`
UFY`XYghfcmYX`UbX`nci`bYXX`hc`fYd`UW`h`Ya`cf` `Y`]bgi`fUbW`WU]a`g`A`U`Y`gi`fY`nci`f`
d`chcg`UbX`#cf`XcW`a`Ybng`]bW`XY.

Septic tank location

GYdh]WgnghYa`fYVt`fXg`cf`XfUk`]b`[`g

Electrical components

- Make sure the land around the manhole covers is sloped downwards so that

During the Flood

- Follow emergency and evacuation advice for your area.
- Eliminate all non-essential water use
- If the drain field becomes covered with water, do not use the system
- Try to find other toilets if your septic system is damaged.

- **Reduce water use** i b[h]`'h\Y'grg[hYa`]g`]bgdYVWYX`UbX`fYdU]fYX"
 - Avoid sending basement sump pump water into the septic system.**
 - Re-route water from roof gutters** Uk UmZfca`'h\Y`XfU]b`Z]Y`X"
 - Take short showers**
 - Limit laundry and dishwashing**
 - Turn off the water** k \]Y`Vfi`g\]b[`'hYh\žg\Uj`]b[`žcf`f]bg]b[`'X]g\Yg

OTHER SYSTEMS

SOURCES

GUIDANCE FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER A FLOOD



www.neha.org