



SHENANDOAH VALLEY SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
1934 DEYERLE AVENUE, SUITE B  
HARRISONBURG, VA 22801



Shenandoah Valley Soil & Water  
Conservation District

## SEPTIC SYSTEM COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

*Working for better water quality  
in your watershed*

1934 Deyerle Ave., Suite B  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
(540) 742-4634  
(540) 433-2853 ext. 120

### Why Should I Maintain My Septic System?

Proper usage and maintenance of your septic system is vital to prolonging the life of your septic system. It also increases the value of your home. There are many other reasons to maintain your septic system:

#### **To protect water quality.**

A failing septic system allows harmful bacteria from untreated waste to leach into groundwater supplies, contaminating your drinking water. The untreated waste on the ground's surface pollutes our local streams and rivers by carrying bacteria in runoff after storm events.

#### **To prevent costly repairs.**

A failed septic system can cost anywhere from a few hundred dollars to several thousands of dollars to repair.



#### **DID YOU KNOW???**

**The absence of a septic waste treatment system is **ILLEGAL**.**

Pipes that lead directly from a home's toilet and drains directly into a ditch, stream or river are called straight pipes. These are not treating discharge and sewage properly and directly contaminate water supplies.

*Septic System Assistance Available In  
Your Area!  
See inside for details!*

## How do I know my septic system is failing?

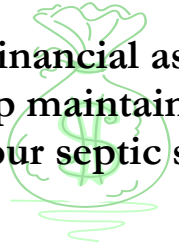
- Wet spots or standing water in your yard.
- Odd growth patterns in your grass.
- Septic odor inside or outside of your home.
- Slow or backed up drains.

These are signs that your septic system could be failing. There could also be problems below the ground that may not be visible. Having your septic tank pumped out and inspected every **3-5 years** can prevent unwanted costs and unnecessary pollution.

**What do I do if my septic system is failing or if I want to replace my straight pipe?**

***CONTACT US!!!***

**There is financial assistance to help maintain and repair your septic system!**



## Septic System Cost-Share Assistance Program

### What it is:

This cost-share program provide financial assistance to repair and/or replace failing systems and straight pipes. The program also funds a portion of the cost of a septic tank pumpout.

### Who is this program for?

This program is available to residents/landowners in the Mill Creek and Hawksbill Creek watersheds in Page County.

### Why is this program available?

This program was made available through part of a clean-up plan for Mill and Hawksbill Creeks in Page County. These two streams do not meet water quality standards, meaning they are polluted. Failing septic systems and straight pipes were found to be one of the causes of these creeks being polluted. This program is designed to help improve the water quality in these streams and increase septic system awareness.

## Where can I get more information or sign up ?



Contact Megan O’Gorek at the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water Conservation District at **(540) 742-4634** or (540) 433-2853 ext. 120 or by email [megan.ogorek@va.nacdnet.net](mailto:megan.ogorek@va.nacdnet.net)

The Page County office is located on the second floor of the Farm Bureau Insurance office at 239 East Main Street in Luray. The Rockingham County office is located at 1934 Deyerle Avenue Suite B in Harrisonburg. Please call for an appointment!

This project received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency’s Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Program at the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), via grant number 319-2007-03-PT