

Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan (LINAP)- Special Announcement

Septic Smart Week Begins September 18th!

Septic Smart Week 2023 is happening September 18 – 22. During this week, take time to think about proper septic system care and maintenance. We have listed below some information and tips about septic system care that are important to keep in mind during all times of the year.

- Have your system inspected every three years by a qualified professional or according to your local health department's recommendations.
- Have your septic tank pumped every three to five years.
- Avoid pouring harsh products (e.g., oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications) down the drain.
- Discard non-degradable products in the trash (e.g., floss, wipes, cat litter) instead of flushing them.
- Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from the drainfield and tank.
- Repair leaks and use water efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system.
- Maintain plants and vegetation near the system to ensure roots do not block drains.
- Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, and biodegradable.
- Prevent system freezing during cold weather by inspecting and insulating vulnerable system parts (e.g., the inspection pipe and soil treatment area).
- Before any digging is completed on your property, make sure you know the location of your system.
- Consider replacing failing cesspools and septic systems with an Innovative Alternative Onsite Treatment System (I/A OWTS)

Nitrogen pollution from cesspools and septic systems has been identified as the largest cause of degraded water quality contributing to beach closures, toxic algae blooms, and massive fish kills. A conventional septic system is not designed to remove nitrogen. The average residential septic system discharges approximately 40 pounds of nitrogen per year!

If it is time to replace your septic system, consider replacing with an Innovative/Alternative On-site Treatment System (I/A OWTS). These systems treat nitrogen, to protect Long Island's ground and surface waters better than a traditional septic system. [Nassau](#) and [Suffolk](#) County both have programs in place to provide homeowners and small businesses with grants to replace failing or outdated septic systems and cesspools with I/A OWTS. The grant programs can often cover the majority of the cost of installing more environmentally effective systems. Learn more by visiting your county's website today:

[Nassau County S.E.P.T.I.C. Program](#)

[Suffolk County Septic Improvement Program](#)