

Septic System Tips



After a strong earthquake you may need to live without a working toilet for weeks or months. On-site septic systems are buried underground and can become damaged.

Is your system working?

Your septic system may still be working if:

- ❓ Your water supply is functioning
- ❓ You have electricity (some systems require power for a pump)
- ❓ Toilets flush and sinks drain properly

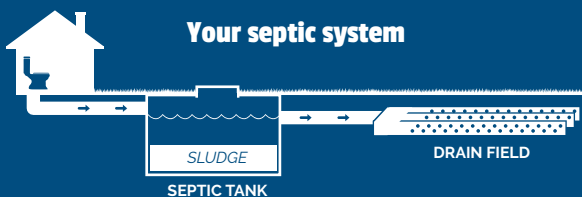
Signs it is not working

After an earthquake, inspect your septic system to look for these signs of problems:

- ✅ The earth has moved around your septic system
- ✅ Abnormal wet or soft spots in yard
- ✅ Sewage odors
- ✅ Water or sewage backing up in downstairs bath or floor drain

If you have problems

- 1 Limit use of water in your home and use a twin bucket system until repairs are made (*see reverse*).
- 2 Keep people and pets away from your septic system until it is back in service.
- 3 Only use licensed professionals to repair/replace your septic system.



[Learn more](#)

Emergency Toilet – Protect Your Family’s Health

After a strong earthquake you may need to live without a working toilet for weeks or months. Disease is spread when human waste – POO – is not handled and stored safely.

Twin Bucket System

*Separating **PEE** lessens volume and odor, making bucket contents safer and easier to store and dispose.*

Liquid waste – **PEE**

- Use **PEE** bucket.
- Place toilet paper in **POO** bucket.
- Add water to contents if possible.
- Pour on lawn, garden or ground.

Fecal waste – **POO**

- Line bucket with heavy duty 13-gallon garbage bag.
- Use **POO** bucket.
- Cover each use with bark chips, etc. to help dry the waste.
- Fill bucket no more than half full of waste.
- Double-bag and store the waste separate from other garbage and away from food and water.
- Secure waste from pets, flies, rats, etc.

Stay informed – watch for instructions from public agencies on how to get rid of waste.



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