
Septic System Maintenance:

- All septic systems will fail unless the sludge and floating scum are periodically removed from the tank. Otherwise, solids overflow and clog the absorption field.
- Septic tanks should be cleaned out every 3-5 years, depending on size and the amount of solids entering them.
- Commercial additives do not eliminate the need for periodic clean-out.
- Never discharge from basement footing drains or other clean water sources into the field.
- Divert surface runoff water from roofs, patios, driveways, or other areas away from the absorption field.
- Establish a grass cover over the field as soon as possible after installation to prevent erosion and promote plant uptake of water.
- Keep traffic off the absorption area, especially when saturated or if there is snow cover. Compacting the snow reduces its insulating value, and can push the frostline down.

Information obtained from the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/new>

For More Information:

Please call the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative at 260-484-5848 x120. Application packets can be obtained at the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative office, located in the Allen County USDA Service Center building, 3718 New Vision Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

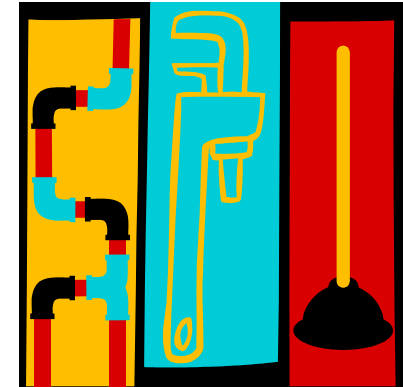
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Sponsored by:

- Fort Wayne-Allen, DeKalb and Noble County Health Departments
 - Dekalb County SWCD
- St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative

Cedar Creek Watershed



Septic System Replacement Cost Share Program

St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative

3718 New Vision Drive
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46845
(260) 484-5848 x3



Cedar Creek Septic System Replacement Cost Share Program

Is Your Septic System Failing?

Symptoms of Failure:

- Sewage backflow—septic system rejects sewage until it backs up into a home.
- Sewage in the Yard—poorly treated sewage surfaces on the yard or in nearby ditches or the neighbor's yard.
- Decline in Water Quality—significant degradation in groundwater quality. A downhill neighbor's water supply well will be affected.
- Gradual Environmental Degradation

Information obtained from the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/new>

Cost Share Program Guidelines:

- Applications will be accepted at the St. Joseph River Watershed Initiative Partnership office through July 31, 2007 or until funds for the program are exhausted.
- The existing home and property must be located in the Cedar Creek sub-watershed, with a failed septic system.
- The home must be owner-occupied.

- Cost share applications will be accepted and contracts will be executed on a first come, first served basis until funding is exhausted.
- Applicant is responsible for hiring a certified soil scientist to perform soil tests of the site.
- Applications must be approved by your local County Health Department for their recommendation/ approval of appropriate repair or installation of a new system.
- Installation or repair of the system must be completed within 12 months of the dated contract.

Cost Share Information:

- The Cedar Creek Septic Replacement Cost Share Program will provide cost share funds up to 75%, not to exceed \$3000.00, for the total cost of repair or replacement construction of a conventional septic system, including materials and labor.
- Applicant is responsible for a minimum of 25% of all costs involved to repair or replace their failing system.
- This program will not provide cost share funds for the pumping of a septic tank unless it is included as part of the total cost of replacement by the septic installer.
- Alternative systems may require a review from the State Health Department.
- Although some alternative systems may incur additional costs not applicable to conventional systems, the maximum amount of cost share funds cannot exceed 75% of total cost.

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