



Private Well and Septic System Maintenance & Resources

Most residential properties in Watertown Township have a private well, a septic tank, and a drainfield. The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) has regulatory authority for the permitting, installation, maintenance, and abandonment of these systems.

MMDHD, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) provide resources for homeowners and renters to inspect and maintain these systems.

The Environmental Health Division of the MMDHD provides quick links to drinking water and septic information and resources, including checklists and guidance for protecting private wells and septic systems to issues like flooding, financial assistance resources, water testing information, and more. See <https://www.mmdhd.org/environmental-services/> for details.

MDHHS provides educational information on both public and private water supplies. You can find more information on drinking water testing, understanding the results of tests, choosing a home water filter, and other information: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/safety-injury-prev/environmental-health/topics/care-for-mi-drinking-water>

The US Environmental Protection Agency administers a “SepticSmart” program, which educates homeowners about proper septic system care and maintenance year round. In Michigan, EGLE provides these webinars, instructional videos, and simple tips for keeping your septic system in good repair: <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/drinking-water-and-environmental-health/onsite-wastewater-management/septicmart>

Finally, Watertown Township is a member of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission’s Groundwater Management Board. This organization also provides educational resources about groundwater, drinking water, and well and septic maintenance. Find more information here: <https://www.mitrpc.org/migroundwater-resources>

Reminders:

- Inspect your well head (the part of the well that sticks out of the ground) regularly for any signs of damage or leaking.
- Conduct a water test every few years.
- Have your septic tank pumped by a licensed hauler on a regular schedule.
- Plant only grass over and near your well, septic tank, and drainfield – plant, shrub, and tree roots can damage the system.
- Don’t drive or park on any part of your septic system.
- Don’t flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper! Everything else, paper towels, baby wipes, feminine products, medications, etc., are not designed to be flushed.
- Never pour cooking oil, grease, oil-based paints, solvents, or similar products down the drain.