

**FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE  
TO HELP YOU  
MAINTAIN  
YOUR SEPTIC  
SYSTEM  
OPEN TO ALL  
RESIDENCES**

**UPDATED JULY 1, 2025**



Funding for these projects has been secured by the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Nonpoint Source Program, Commonwealth of Virginia.



The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District is offering financial assistance to all residents in the Culpeper SWCD area to remedy septic system malfunctions and perform preventative maintenance. This includes Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange & Rappahannock regardless of watershed. **So, until further notice this document supersedes any other information you encounter.**

This program will reimburse participants up to \$225 for a septic system pump-out and 50% of any required repair or replacement expenses, including full system replacement as necessary (See table below). **All residents are eligible for the program regardless of income level. Reimbursement payments are typically 50% for anyone although can go as high as 80% for individuals that qualify for low-income status.** This program is funded by a grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Upon completion of your maintenance/repair/installation you will be reimbursed promptly.

**Approval of application for funding is required prior to implementation.**

Cost Share Payment Amounts	
Pump out	50% of cost or \$225 max (up to \$360 low income)
Pump out & Inspection	50% of cost or \$3250 max (up to \$5200 low income)
Repair	50% of cost or \$3750 max (up to \$6,000 low income) Alternative systems not eligible
Conventional system	50% of cost or \$6250 max (up to \$10,000 low income)
Conventional system with pump	50% of cost or \$8250 max (up to \$13,200 low income)
Engineered/ Alternative system	50% of cost or \$15,750 max (up to \$25,200 low income)
Connection to public sewer	50% of cost or \$6250 max (up to \$10,000 low income)

## What causes septic systems to fail?

- Failure of the outlet tee clogs the drainfield with solids and does not allow the wastewater to leech into the soil. Sewage has nowhere else to go so it backs up into your house.
- Adding water to the drainfield at a rate faster than it can percolate down through the soil. This includes having leaky fixtures or a roof downspout that empties near your drainfield.
- Physical damage to the drainfield or distribution box caused by digging, tilling, or cars & heavy machinery passing over them.
- Adding substances like grease, paint, and large amounts of cleaning solution kill the bacteria that break down sewage solids. This causes solids to buildup faster than normal and can easily clog the inlet/outlet tees and the drainfield.
- Woody plants growing on or near your drainfield. Their roots can easily clog the drain lines by growing into them.
- No regular pumping maintenance based on septic tank size and the number of people living in your home. Example: 2 people using a 1,000 gallon tank should be pumped every 4 -6 years.
- Non-biodegradable or slow to degrade items like products that contain plastics and heavier paper products.

## CALL TO APPLY:

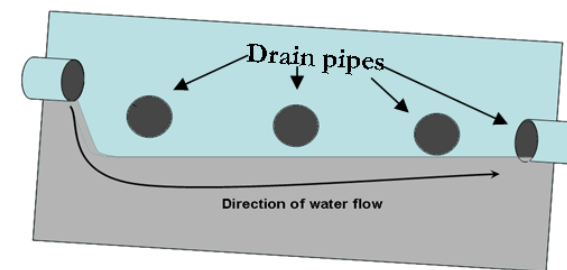
CULPEPER SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Why?

This program is entirely voluntary. Its purpose is to improve surface and ground water quality locally and downstream from you. Your participation in maintaining a working septic system or repairing a failing system will help keep excess fecal bacteria and excess nutrients out of streams. The cleaner our streams are, the more recreation, people, and wildlife they can healthily support.

**With our cost share funds and your minimal maintenance investment, you are buying peace of mind. You can help minimize the risk of installing a costly system in the foreseeable future.**

A Common Septic System Problem



An unlevel distribution box forces all of the septic wastewater into 1 drain line. This causes the water to appear above ground because the soil is saturated and can cause failure of one or more lines.

## CONTACT:

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