

More Tips on Septic Systems

1. Have the system pumped out regularly, at least every two years, and have it inspected for signs that it may need maintenance.
2. Use your community's Household Hazardous Waste Collection events to properly dispose of hazardous chemicals. Substances poured or flushed into household plumbing can pass through a septic system without being treated and contaminate groundwater. Chemicals to avoid putting down the drain include:
 - Paints and varnishes
 - Photographic solutions
 - Paint thinners
 - Waste oils
 - Antifreeze
 - Wood preservatives
 - Household cleaners

Keeping Stormwater Close to Where it Falls

If you capture stormwater close to where it falls in your yard, you will help recharge the Barnes Aquifer and cut down on stormwater flows that can become polluted and heated as they move down driveways and along curbs to the nearest catch basin. Some ideas:

Redirect your roof downspouts so that flow goes onto your lawn or garden. This might involve rehangng your gutters, but it could mean just using a tube extension from your downspout so that water can reach your lawn and garden.

Capture flow from your roof with a rain barrel, rain garden, or drywell. See the following links for more information:

Rain Barrels

Rain Barrel Fact Sheet, PVPC and Town of South Hadley ([link to PDF](#))

Rain Gardens

<http://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/>

http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/raingarden_design/download.htm

Plants for Rain Gardens, PVPC ([link to PDF](#))

Drywells

Drywells Fact Sheet, Portland, Maine, Water District ([link to PDF](#))

Other Stormwater Information

Stormwater Best Management Practices for Groundwater Protection ([link to PDF](#))

<http://www.thinkbluema.org/>