Fix It Before It Fails
Protect Your Pocketbook

Most sewage systems will fail sometime. Just like the roof on your house, a septic system is designed to have a lifetime of about 20-30 years, under the best conditions.

Eventually, the soil around the absorption field becomes clogged with organic material, making the system unusable.

But by far the most common reason for early failure is improper maintenance by homeowners. When a system is poorly maintained and not pumped out on a regular basis, sludge (solid material) builds up inside the septic tank, then flows into the absorption field, clogging it beyond repair.

The most obvious effect is the direct expense of replacing your septic system. This could cost $8,000 to $10,000. Systems with motors and parts will need to be serviced over the years, too. Just like you would with any other service professional, be sure to shop around for quotes and references. Your local health department can also tell you which septic system contractors are registered and bonded.

Fees under the proposed rules:

	Installation Fee	Alteration Fee	Operation Permit
State Fee	2015: $25	$15	None
	2016: $50	$25	
	2017: $74	$35	
Local Fee	Set by local health department	Set by local health department	Amount and frequency set by local health department; proposed rules say the maximum operation permit is ten years.

Just like furnace or the roof on your house, your septic system will probably need to be replaced every 20 years- but you can plan for it. As a resident in the country or suburbs, you do not have to pay the average yearly city sewer fee of $450.

When it is time to replace your system, you could qualify for assistance:
Community Development Block Grant Funds, Community Housing Improvement Program and Rural Housing and Rural Utilities Programs are all available resources. For more information, contact your local health department.