



What are Consumer Confidence Reports?

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Have you ever wondered if your drinking water is safe for you and your family? There is a way to find out. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires all public water systems to prepare and distribute an annual report on the quality of their drinking water. The report is titled: Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

The information contained in the CCR is governed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) CCR rule and administered by our state's primacy agency, the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ). The information contained in the CCR provides details about a community's water quality over the previous calendar year. Definitions of terms and abbreviations used in the report are listed for ease of reference and understanding.

The CCR must contain the name and phone number of a person that is able to answer questions about the CCR. It also must list the dates, time and place of regular meetings of the public water system that a customer may attend. Information on the water source, such as the name of a lake or river or wells used is listed. The CCR also gives a brief description of the water treatment method used by the community.

Tables showing information on disinfection, disinfection by-products, lead and copper sampling, turbidity, along

with other tables providing information about regulated and unregulated contaminants, are contained in the CCR. The tables also provide information on the levels of the certain regulated contaminants and likely sources of the contaminants.

The CCR also provides information on any violations of drinking water standards or exceedances of contaminant level requirements that have occurred in the past year. Educational information such as the sources of drinking water contaminants, and the health hazards of contaminants such as lead, or cryptosporidium (if tested) are also included.

Most of us have seen a CCR published in the local paper, posted in public places or have received a copy of the report in the mail. I encourage everyone to read their report, become familiar with the contents of the report and reach out to the person listed in the report for answers to any questions you may have about information contained in the CCR.

Water system boards, administrators, staff, EPA and NDDEQ go to great lengths to ensure the safety of your drinking water and to provide the information needed to know that your drinking water is meeting the standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

For more information on Consumer Confidence Reports please visit the EPA's website, www.epa.gov/ccr/ccr-information-consumers.

SEPTIC TANKS - Preventative Routine Maintenance

Septic Tank Maintenance Tips

Follow these tips to keep your septic tank system running smoothly and save yourself money on repairs.

- Have your septic system inspected every one to two years and cleaned (pumped out) every three to five years or more frequently, depending on the tank size and number of people using the system.
- Never flush cat litter, coffee grounds, diapers, towelettes (even the “flushable” type), cigarette butts, tampons, condoms, grease, dental floss, baby wipes, paints, thinners, pesticides, oils, medicines, or excessive household chemicals.
- Know your system’s location. When you have the tank pumped, draw a diagram or map showing its location in relation to fixed points - corners of the house, steps or fence posts. Ask the pumper to help you locate the drainfield. Note its location on your diagram, along with the location of your drinking water well. Keep this sketch with your septic tank records.
- Place an easily movable item - a birdbath or decorative rock - over the tank lid to make it easy to find.
- Protect the drainfield.
- Add a barrier to prevent anyone from driving over the drainfield, which could break the tank lid and pipes and compact the soil, restricting oxygen flow. (Bacteria in the drainfield need oxygen.)
- Divert down spouts and other surface water - especially irrigation sprinklers - away from the drainfield. Too much water can harm it.
- Don’t dig, build or plant anything other than grass over the drainfield.
- Conserve water. Reduce the amount of wastewater that must be treated and disposed of by your system.
- Wash no more than one or two loads of clothes daily. Up to 53 gallons of water flood your septic system with each load, so it’s best to spread laundry out over the week.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets; over time, they can send hundreds of extra gallons of water through your septic system.



- Use low-flow fixtures and appliances whenever possible. Low-flush toilets use between 1 and 1.6 gallons of water per flush and may reduce your water bill by up to one-third. Low-flow faucet aerators on sink faucets, low-flow shower-heads and low-flow washing machines will also save water.
- Do not use a garbage disposal. It adds up to 50 percent more solids to your septic tank, and your tank will require more frequent pump-outs.
- Do not use caustic drain openers for clogged drains. Use boiling water or a drain snake instead.
- Make sure your water softener is not plumbed to wash back into the septic tank.
- Keep good records, including a copy of your septic tank permit.
- Do not use septic tank additives, commercial septic tank cleansers, yeast, sugar, etc. These products are not necessary, and some may be harmful to your system.
- Use commercial bathroom cleaners and laundry detergents in moderation. Try cleaning toilets, sinks, showers, and tubs with a mild detergent or baking soda.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). "Septic Tanks - Preventative Routine Maintenance." South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Website. Environmental Control. <https://scdhec.gov/environment/septic-tanks/septic-tanks-preventative-routine-maintenance>