

5 Physical Checks to Perform After Severe Weather

Storms do more than just wet the ground; they physically alter the landscape. Erosion, shifting soil, and debris impact can damage the structural components of your septic system in ways that aren't immediately visible. Black Diamond Septic Pumping recommends a specific physical check-up routine following any major weather event to ensure your system remains intact.

1. Check for Soil Erosion Around Risers Heavy runoff can wash away the topsoil covering your tank and risers. If the soil is scoured away, your lids might be exposed to damage from lawnmowers or vehicles. More importantly, erosion can destabilize the pipes connecting to the tank. A professional **Septic Tank Inspection** will verify that the cover remains adequate to protect the components from frost and physical impact.

2. Inspect Observation Ports Many drain fields have white PVC inspection pipes sticking out of the ground. Falling branches or debris can crack these pipes or knock off the caps. If these ports are open, rainwater and debris can flow directly into your leach field, bypassing the tank entirely and causing immediate clogging. Ensure these caps are tight and the pipes are unbroken.

3. Look for Sinkholes If the ground underneath your tank was not properly compacted during installation, heavy rains can cause it to settle. This settling can lead to the formation of sinkholes near the tank. A sinkhole is a major safety hazard and a sign that the tank may have shifted or cracked. If you see depressions forming in the lawn, call a pro immediately.

4. Verify Electrical Connections For systems with pumps, check the outdoor electrical boxes. Wind-driven rain can penetrate seals that have degraded over time. If moisture gets into the junction box, it can corrode the wiring, leading to pump failure days or weeks after the storm.

5. Assess the Distribution Box Area The distribution box is often the shallowest component. Check the ground above it for softness. If the D-box has shifted due to the ground softening, it will need to be leveled to ensure the drain field is used evenly.

By performing these physical checks, you catch mechanical damage early, preventing a simple repair from becoming a system replacement.

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