

Septic System Do's

- Do use water sparingly. Wash only full loads of laundry at off-peak times and try to limit the number of loads per day.
- Do limit use of the garbage disposals. Ground-up foods are hard on septic systems since they are not digested by the human body first.
- Do remove solids from the septic tank by hiring a licensed septic contractor. Pumping frequency will depend on the size of the tank and the number of persons using the system. If a garbage disposal is used, the tank will require frequent pumping. A 1,000-gallon system serving a four-person family will typically require cleaning every two to three years.
- Do fix all plumbing leaks as soon as possible. A leaking faucet or toilet can overload the system.
- Do have a diagram showing the locations of all septic system components with relation to the house. The diagram should be passed to subsequent owners if the house is sold.

Septic System Don'ts

- Do NOT plant deep-rooted plants (trees, shrubs) within ten feet of the septic system.
- Do NOT drive over the septic system. Most septic tanks and sewer piping are not designed to support the weight of an automobile. In addition, compacting the soil over an absorption field will increase the likelihood of premature failure.
- Do NOT ignore the warning signs of problems. Contact a licensed septic system contractor at the first sign of trouble.
- Do NOT use your toilet as a trash can or pour harmful chemicals and cleansers down the drain. Harsh chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria present in the system that treat your wastewater.

DO NOT FLUSH:

Coffee Grounds
Dental Floss
Disposable Diapers
Kitty Litter
Sanitary Napkins
Tampons
Paints
Varnishes
Thinners

Cigarette Butts
Condoms
Gauze Bandages
Fats, Greases or Oils
Paper Towels
Panty Hose
Photographic Solutions
Pesticides
Drain Cleaners