

Septic Maintenance

Do's & Don'ts

DO

- * conserve water to reduce the amount of wastewater that must be treated and disposed
- * repair leaking faucets and toilets promptly
- * only discharge biodegradable wastes into system
- * spread laundry use over the week rather than laundry all on one day
- * minimize the amount of household cleaners
- * divert down spouts and all other surface water away from your soil treatment area
- * remove and prevent trees from growing near the soil treatment (leach field)
- * ensure all roof, cellar, footing drainage, and surface water drains away from your sewage treatment system
- * keep your septic tank cover accessible for tank inspections and pumping
- * have your effluent screen inspected and cleaned once a year
- * have your septic tank pumped regularly and inspected for leaks and cracks
- * install a lint trap at clothes washer drain

DON'T

- * flush sanitary napkins, tampons, disposable, diapers, condoms, wipes, cat litter, cigarette butts, hair, bandages, rags & strings, paper towels
- * flush pharmaceuticals down the drain, the septic cannot break down most drugs
- * dump solvents, oils, paints, thinners, disinfectants, pesticides or poisons down the drain; these can disrupt the treatment process and contaminate groundwater
- * dig in your soil treatment area or build anything over it
- * plant anything over your soil treatment area except grass
- * drive over your soil treatment area or compact the soil in any way
- * use a garbage disposal unless your septic tank was sized to handle the required sludge storage volume
- * plant trees around your leach field
- * use anti-bacterial soap and limit use of bleach and bacterial cleaners

SAFETY FIRST!

NEVER physically enter a septic tank or other parts of the treatment system. Call your service provider!