

CARING FOR YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Maintenance Dos & Don'ts

DO



KEEP ACCURATE RECORDS

You should keep any as-builts, repair documentation, and a maintenance record of septic inspection and pumping.



KEEP BACTERIA WORKING

Living organisms in your septic system and drain field make the system work. You'll kill these essential organisms by using too much chlorine, antibacterial soap, disinfectants, acids, lye, medicines, pesticides, and paint. Dispose of these items at a household hazardous waste facility.



COMPOST FOOD WASTE, FATS, AND OILS

Limit the amount of fats, oils, and food waste entering your system. Solids require you to pump your system more frequently. Fats and oils clog your pipes and increase the amount of scum in your system. Food waste can't break down properly and will clog your drain field. Compost your food waste instead.



MINIMIZE RAINWATER RUNOFF

Divert your downspouts away from your septic tank and drain field.



SCHEDULE MAINTENANCE REGULARLY

Your system won't function properly without regular maintenance and pumping. Pumping is a fraction of the cost of replacing your whole system. Schedule a maintenance check every 1 to 3 years, depending on what type of system you have.

DON'T



USE UNNECESSARY ADDITIVES

Research indicates that additives don't provide any real value for your system.



IGNORE WARNING SIGNS

Signs include pipes draining slowly or gurgling, sewage smell, water backing up in sinks, showers, or basements, and increased standing or soggy water over your drain field.



FLUSH THINGS THAT WON'T DEGRADE

Coffee grounds, diapers, bones, tampons, napkins, paper towels, cigarette butts, floss, and any kind of packaging should always go in the trash, not your toilet.



DAMAGE YOUR DRAIN FIELD

Don't plant large trees over your drain pipe system, and never drive over your drain field.

Septic drain field pipes

