

Your Septic System



How It Functions
and
How to Care for It

Septic System Do's & Don'ts -

Do's:

- Know the location and capacity of your septic tank system.
- Have a licensed contractor inspect the tank at least every three years.
- Have tank pumped when the combined depth of the sludge and scum equals 1/3 of the tank liquid volume.
- Install the system so that rainfall and surface water will flow away from the drainfield.
- Grow grass above the system.
- Install water conservation fixtures or devices to reduce the total volume of water entering the system.
- Keep plumbing fixtures such as toilets and faucets in good repair to prevent leakage and wasting of water.
- Keep a maintenance record and inspect the pump (if equipped) on a regular basis.

Don'ts:

- Never flush paper towels, newspapers, wrapping paper, rags or sticks into the system.
- Never allow large, irregular, intermittent or constant volumes of clear water into the system, as with a leaking toilet or faucet.
- Never over-use ordinary household cleaning chemicals that will be flushed into the system.
- Never pour out or empty hobby or home industry chemicals into the system.
- Never allow grease or other bulky waste to enter the system.
- Never flush toxic materials such as pesticides into the system.
- Never plant trees or shrubbery in or on the drainfield area.
- Never allow vehicles (cars, trucks, etc.) to drive across or park on the drainfield. (Protect it from being crushed.)
- Never waste water.
- Never use chemical solvents to clean plumbing lines or a septic tank system.