

## Do's & Don'ts For On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems

- Conserve water. Consider water as a valuable resource and do not waste it.
- Fix any leaky faucets/toilets.
- Avoid long Showers and using whirlpool tubs.
- Use a toilet tissue that breaks up easily when wet. You can test this by placing your tissue into a glass jar with water in it and shaking it.
- Use of bath/skin oil/moisturizers may add to fats, oils, and grease-build up of scum layer in the tank(Not a desirable result).
- Use washing machines/dishwashers for full loads only. Avoid use of liquid fabric softeners.
- Don't allow the water to run while brushing your teeth or shaving
- Avoid disposing the following items down the sink, drains or toilets
  - chemicals, paints, thinner, solvents, excessive medication, sanitary napkins, tissues, paper toweling, cigarette butts, grease, cooking oil, pesticides, kitty litter, coffee grounds, eggshells, disposable diapers, stockings, or nylons. These items do not break down readily and will contribute to the scum or sludge layers or plug the drain field. Dispose of these items and any other non-decomposable materials with other solid waste.
- Do not install garbage disposals. They grind up food products that settle out in the tank, adding considerably to the sludge build-up and the amount of organic matter that needs treatment by as much as 50%.
- If you use a water softening unit, select one with demand initiated regeneration in which the need to regenerate is determined by measuring gallons of water used, or by measuring the change in the electrical conductivity of the resin bed, or by sensing a change in water hardness.
- Do not overuse cleaning products, including bleach and drain cleaners, and do not dump excess cleaning products down the drain. A septic system can handle typical amounts used for routine cleaning, as well as normal use amounts of anti-bacterial soaps. Excessive amounts will stop the bacterial action in the septic tank.
- Avoid using automatic toilet cleaning dispensers that release bleach with every flush. This deteriorates the rubber parts and seals in the toilet, and can reduce populations of bacteria in the septic tank that break down waste.
- Do not allow any ground water or surface runoff water to enter the sewer system. Footing drains and basement sump pumps are prohibited.
- Do not drive any motorized vehicles over the drain field area.

If the above mentioned precaution are followed it will keep maintenance and repair costs down as well as septic tank pumping costs.