

Tips for protecting and maintaining your Septic system

DO'S AND DON'TS

Don't flush or pour down the drain any dangerous and damaging substances into your waste water treatment system. Such as:

- *Non-biodegradable objects* like disposable diapers, baby/hygiene wipes, condoms, tampons, cat litter, paper towels, facial tissues or cigarette butts. etc
- Medication
- Grease or cooking oils
- Toxic or flammable products, like paint or paint thinner
- Don't clean latex or oil paint brushes at sink
- Solvents, industrial cleaners or disinfectants
- Household cleaners, floor wax, rug cleaners
- Chlorine bleach or ammonia products
- Coffee grounds or other food or compost scraps
- Water softener or water filter backwash
- Pool or spa products or its waste water
- Pesticides, herbicides, agricultural chemicals or fertilizers
- Commercial septic tank cleaners or other performance additives

Don't:

- *Dig* up the yard without knowing the exact location of system
- Landscape or place permanent structures over system components
- *Drive* or park over any component of the septic system
- *Enter* underground septic tank - call a professional
- Allow open access ports to system – block all access to tank opening immediately
- *Install* a garbage grinder

Do:

- Use liquid detergents rather than powder
- Fix leaky plumbing fixtures immediately
- Pump system (yearly in multi-family units) every 2-3 years
- Keep records of septic system maintenance
- Conserve water consumption by reducing daily water use
- Be alert to signs of a failing or clogged system