

Septic System Dos and Don'ts

Do

- Have your septic system inspected and pumped as necessary by a licensed inspector/contractor.
- Use water efficiently to avoid overloading the septic system. Be sure to repair leaky faucets or toilets. Use high-efficiency fixtures.
- Plant only grass over and near your septic system. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs might clog and damage the drainfield.
- Keep records of repairs, pumpings, inspections, permits issued, and other system maintenance activities.
- Learn the location of your septic system. Keep a sketch of it with your maintenance record for service visits.
- Use commercial bathroom cleaners and laundry detergents in moderation. Many people prefer to clean their toilets, sinks, showers, and tubs with a mild detergent or baking soda.
- Check with your local Health Department before allowing water softener backwash to enter your septic tank.
- Keep roof drains, basement sump pumps, and other rainwater or surface water drainage systems away from the drainfield. Flooding the drainfield with excessive water slows down or stops treatment processes and can ruin your Septic System drainfield.
- Route drain water from hot tubs & swimming pools onto grass & away from the drainfield.

DON'T

- Your septic system is not a trash can. Don't put dental floss, feminine hygiene products, condoms, diapers, cotton swabs, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, cat litter, paper towels, unused medicines, latex paint, pesticides, or other hazardous chemicals into your system.
- Don't clean latex paint brushes & rollers in the sink (into your system).
- Don't use caustic drain openers for a clogged drain. Instead, use boiling water or a drain snake to open clogs.
- Don't drive or park vehicles on any part of your septic system. Doing so can compact the soil in your drainfield or damage the pipes, tank, or other septic system components.
- Don't use a garbage disposal unit unless you have your tank pumped yearly.
- Don't dump cooking fats or oils into the sink or garbage disposal.
- Don't use RID-X or other additives. Commercial septic tank additives can be harmful to the system.
- Don't add or subtract from the system dirt cover without consulting the Health Department.