



Septic Care

Do Don't

☺ **Know where your septic tank is and protect it!**

- ◆ Locate your as-built or map locating all septic parts.
- ◆ Keep septic tank lids easily accessible.
- ◆ Inspect system annually.
- ◆ Pump tank regularly (3-5 years).
- ◆ Keep maintenance and other system records.

☺ **Reduce water use.**

- ◆ Use low-flow faucets, showers, toilets.
- ◆ Run appliances one at a time (dishwasher, washing machine).
- ◆ Spread laundry over entire week and avoid partial loads.
- ◆ Showers use less water than baths.
- ◆ Limit shower length.
- ◆ Fix all faucets and toilet leaks promptly.
- ◆ Turn water off while brushing or shaving.

☺ **Plant grass, or other very shallow-rooted plants over drainfield.**

☺ **Direct runoff from roofs, streets, driveways & adjoining properties away from drainfield.**

☺ **Use phosphate-free detergent and only recommended amount.**

☺ **Most pumpers recommend liquid cleaners instead of bulk, economy-sized powdered detergents.**

☺ **Keep irrigation or sprinkler systems at least 10 feet from drainfield.**

☹ **Don't flush non-biodegradable solid wastes down the toilet or the drain.**

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|----------------|------------------------|
| Diapers | Cigarette Butts |
| Coffee Grounds | Condoms |
| Grease | Oils |
| Plastics | Bones |
| Kitty Litter | Dental Floss |
| Paper Towels | Personal Hygiene Items |

☹ **Don't pour strong chemicals, like cleaning products, and other bacteria-destroying products down the drain.**

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|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Drain Cleaners | Solvents |
| Paint | Paint Thinners |
| Floor Cleaners | Sink Cleaners |
| Motor Oil | Antifreeze |
| Pesticides | Photo Chemicals |
| Other Household Cleaners | |
| Excessive Amounts of Bleach | |

☹ **Do not park vehicles or heavy equipment (including boats) over drainfield.**

☹ **Do not use tank additives or "miracle" system cleaners.**

☹ **Do not run storm drainage, hot tubs, or drains from water softeners into septic system.**

☹ **Do not discard medications (like antibiotics) down drains or toilet.**

☹ **Do not compact soils in drainfield or reserve area in any way by building:**

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|---------------|---------------|
| Patios | Carports |
| Decks | Additions |
| Sports Courts | Storage Sheds |

☹ **Do not cover drainfield or reserve area by:**

- ☠ Using landscaping plastic or fabric, gravel, bark, other mulch
- ☠ Paving asphalt or concrete
- ☠ Above ground swimming pool.

(These may retain moisture and reduce oxygen exchange.)

