**Septic Care**

**Do**

- **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.**

**For More Information: Visit our WEB Page at www.HealthyMasonCounty.org**

**Don't**

- **Don't flush non-biodegradable solid wastes down the toilet or the drain.**
  - Diapers
  - Coffee Grounds
  - Grease
  - Plastics
  - Kitty Litter
  - Paper Towels
  - Cigarette Butts
  - Condoms
  - Oils
  - Bones
  - Dental Floss
  - Personal Hygiene Items

- **Don't pour strong chemicals, like cleaning products, and other bacteria-destroying products down the drain.**
  - Drain Cleaners
  - Paint
  - Floor Cleaners
  - Motor Oil
  - Paint Thinners
  - Sink Cleaners
  - 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:**
  - Patios
  - Decks
  - Sports Courts
  - Carports
  - Additions
  - 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.)