



## **Septic System: Do's and Don'ts**

- Do-** Learn the location of your septic tank and drainfield.  
Keep a sketch of it handy with your maintenance record for service.
- Do-** Have your septic system inspected annually.
- Do-** Call a professional whenever you experience problems with your system,  
or if there are any signs of failure.
- Do-** Keep a detailed record of repairs, pumpings, inspections, permit issued, and  
other maintenance activities.
- Do-** Divert other sources of water, like roof drains, house footing drains, and sump  
pumps, away from septic system. Excessive water keeps the soil in the drainfield  
from naturally cleansing the wastewater.

**Do Not Flush** these items as they can overtax or destroy the biological digestion taking place within your system:

<i>coffee grounds</i>	<i>sanitary napkins</i>	<i>tampons</i>
<i>dental floss</i>	<i>cigarette butts</i>	<i>condoms</i>
<i>disposable diapers</i>	<i>fat, grease, or oil</i>	<i>paper towels</i>
<i>kitty litter</i>	<i>paints</i>	<i>varnishes</i>
<i>thinners</i>	<i>waste oils</i>	<i>photographic solutions</i>
<i>pesticides</i>		

- Don't-** Allow anyone to drive or park over any part of the system.
- Don't-** Plant anything over or near the drainfield except grass. Roots from nearby trees  
or shrubs may clog and damage the drain lines.
- Don't-** Dig in your drainfield or build anything over it, and don't cover drainfield with  
a hard surface such as concrete or asphalt. The area over the drainfield should have only grass  
cover. The grass will not only prevent erosion, but will help remove excess water.
- Don't-** Make or allow repairs to your septic system system and groundwater by pouring  
harmful chemicals and cleansers down the drain. Harsh chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria  
that treat your wastewater.
- Don't-** Use a garbage disposal without checking with your local regulatory agency  
to make sure that your septic system can accommodate this additional waste.
- Don't-** Allow backwash from home water softeners to enter the septic system