

ON SITE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

TIPS ON CARING FOR YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Septic System Do's

- Have your tank inspected or pumped out regularly. Keep a record of pumping, inspection and maintenance activities.
- Know the location of your septic system.
- Divert roof drains and surface water from the system. Excess water can prevent the soil in the absorption field from cleaning the wastewater.
- Ensure that there is good grass coverage of the absorption field area. Grass prevents erosion and helps remove excess water through evapotranspiration.
- Keep tank access covers accessible for inspections and pumping.
- Call a professional if you experience problems with the system. Delays can cause worse problems.
- Avoid use of a garbage disposal.
- Reduce water usage. Excess water to the septic system can overload the system, causing solid waste to move into the absorption bed, clogging the bed.

Septic System Don'ts

- Do not plant shrubs or trees near the absorption bed area because the roots can damage the tiles.
- Do not drive over or park on any part of the system. If the area becomes compacted, the wastewater will not be able to move through the bed as it was designed.
- Do not flush the following items: grease, coffee grinds, disposable diapers, plastics, cigarette butts, excessive toilet paper, paper towels, kitty litter, harmful chemicals or cleansers, non biodegradable items, dental floss, excess hair, condoms, sanitary products, etc. Harmful chemicals include gasoline, paint, paint thinner, antifreeze, bleach, pesticides, acidic drain cleaners, varnish etc. These items will hinder the performance of the system by killing the bacteria in the septic tank or clogging the system.
- Do not pave over the absorption bed or build any other structure on the absorption bed area.
- Do not allow backwash from home water softeners to enter the septic system.

Signs of Septic System Failure

- Lawn over the absorption bed has patches of abnormally healthy looking grass.
- There are soggy areas or areas with surfacing sewage on the absorption bed area.
- Sewage backs up in toilet and drains.
- Sinks, showers and toilets drain more slowly.
- A sewage odour is noticeable in the area of the absorption bed.



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