



ROCK SOLID
SEPTIC

A few tips to help keep your septic system working properly and protecting your family with environmentally sound waste management practices:

- **DO** inspect the system regularly, complete regular maintenance and keep records
- **DO** arrange for a septic service provider to maintain and monitor your system
- **DO** pump out the tank on average every 3 years. This may vary depending on tank size and usage
- **DO** check the baffles to insure they are in good working order
- **DO** check and service/clean the effluent tank filter yearly
- **DO** use the system for what it's designed for – managing the waste water from your toilets, showers, sinks, laundry units, human waste and toilet paper
- **DO** spread laundry use over the week rather than many loads on one day
- **DO** frequently clean washing machine lint trap
- **DO** run water regularly in seldom used drains such as sinks, tubs, showers, etc. to avoid noxious gasses from building up and causing odors inside
- **DO** flush waste products regularly into your system regularly in order to sustain active microbes; infrequent use (vacant homes, extended holiday, season use only...) may not provide the bacteria in your system with enough food to sustain themselves and effectively breakdown your waste product
- **DO** use water-conserving devices where possible. Low flush toilets and low flow showerheads
- **DO** insure that faucets and toilets are not leaking (placing a few drops of food coloring into the tank and leaving it for several hours. The dye should not appear in the toilet bowl – if it does the tank is leaking and needs to be repaired)
- **DO** use phosphate-free detergent. Phosphorus is harmful to the environment, as it can deplete oxygen which is vital to aquatic organisms and helps reduce algae problems in nearby lakes and streams
- **DO** install risers from the tank lids to the soil's surface to allow for easier regular maintenance
- **DO** install and maintain effluent filters to limit the solids from entering into the field bed and helping to extend the life of your septic system
- **DO** remove or prevent trees with large root systems growing near the field bed
- **DO** insure that sump pump discharge is directed away from your septic system components
- **DO** limit the amount of water you use and discharge into the septic system when there has been a prolonged period of when weather that has left the field bed rain-soaked – it may be too saturated for the effluent to percolate down through the soil
- **DO** consult with a professional before using septic tank additives or “miracle system cleaners”. Some of this chemical can actually harm your on-site sewage system and contaminate ground and surface water
- **DO** have a visual inspection done at the time of pumping when purchasing a new home



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DO NOT:

- **DO NOT** dispose of prescription or non-prescription medication into the toilet or sinks
- **DO NOT** discharge water from water softeners into the septic system
- **DO NOT** use a garburator – garbage disposal, as it will overload the tank
- **DO NOT** use excessive amounts of bleach (not every load) and avoid harsh cleaners
- **DO NOT** discharge excessive amounts of water into the septic system. This is called “hydraulic overload” and it can contribute to field bed failures
- **DO NOT** stress the system with multiple loads of laundry – spread laundry throughout the week
- **DO NOT** clean paint brushes in the sink or pour paint down the drain
- **DO NOT** pour excessive amounts of fat, grease or oil down the drain
- **DO NOT** flush any of the following into your system, it cannot break these down: *hair, dryer sheets, paper towels, Kleenex, baby wipes, sanitary napkins, tampons, dental floss, coffee grinds, kitty litter, cigarette butts, condoms, cloth...*
- **DO NOT** dispose water from hot tubs into your septic tank - drain large volumes of water away from your field bed
- **DO NOT** enter the septic tank. Gases inside the tank are poisonous and the lack of oxygen could be hazardous
- **DO NOT** drive over your field bed, avoid improper landscaping or building additions that encroach the field bed (i.e. pools, decks & patios)

Signs that your septic system needs service asap!!!

Some indoor signs that may be noticed are:

- gurgling toilets and sinks
- slow draining sinks
- water coming up in tub or shower when the toilet flushed
- plumbing of septic tank back ups (black liquid with a disagreeable odor)

Some outside signs may be:

- green stripes on lawn where field bed is located, even during dry weather
- effluent seeping to surface in the area of the field bed
- wet spots in your field bed
- if you have a well and water tests indicate the presence of coliform (bacteria) or nitrates may indicate a failing field bed

Mark Visser will help you troubleshoot the problem.

Call 705- 586-1350 or 705-698-0443