

# Septic System

## Tips to Avoid Trouble

- ☑ **DO** have your tank pumped out and system inspected every 1 to 2 years by a licensed septic contractor.
  - ☑ **DO** keep a record of pumping, inspections and other maintenance.
  - ☑ **DO** practice water conservation. Repair dripping faucets and leaking toilets, run washing machines and dishwashers only when full, avoid long showers and use water-saving features in faucets, showerheads and toilets.
  - ☑ **DO** learn the location of your septic system and leaching field. Keep a sketch of it handy for service visits. If your system has a flow diversion valve, learn its location and turn it once a year. Flow diverters can add many years to the life of your system.
  - ☑ **DO** divert roof drains and surface water from driveways and hillsides away from the septic system. Keep sump pumps and house footing drains away from the septic system.
  - ☑ **DO** take leftover hazardous household chemicals to your approved hazardous waste collection center for disposal. Use bleach, disinfectants and drain and toilet bowl cleaners sparingly and in accordance with product labels.
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- ✗ **DON'T** allow anyone to drive or park over any part of the system. The area over the leach field should be left undisturbed with only a mowed grass cover. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs may clog and damage your drain lines.
  - ✗ **DON'T** make or allow repairs to your septic system without obtaining the required health department permit. Use professional licensed septic contractors when needed.
  - ✗ **DON'T** use your toilet as a trash can by dumping nondegradables down your toilet or drains. Also, don't poison your septic system and the groundwater by pouring harmful chemicals down the drain. They can kill the beneficial bacteria that treat your wastewater.



**KEEP THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS OUT OF  
YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM.....**

- **NONDEGRADABLES:** Grease - Disposable Diapers - Plastics
- **POISONS:** Gasoline - Oil - Paint - Paint Thinner - Pesticides - Antifreeze