

Septic System Dos and Don'ts

Dos for inside...

- Conserve water:

Repair water leaks, such as toilet valves and dripping faucets.
Space out water use throughout the day and week (this includes laundry and showers).
Install water conserving fixtures if possible. Low flow shower heads, toilets and even front load washing machines can make a difference.

- Use septic safe cleaning products:

Products should be non chlorinated, biodegradable and phosphate free. Also avoid antibacterials.
Use of liquid laundry detergent is recommended instead of powders.

- Use a bacterial additive that does not contain an emulsifier.

Excessive use of cleaning chemicals and anti-bacterial products can kill off the "good bacteria" in your tank. The addition of a live bacteria additive that does not contain emulsifiers can replenish the bacteria.

- Pump-out your septic tank:

Frequent pumping of septic tanks reduces the possibility of solids floating out and clogging your disposal field which can cause premature failure of your septic system. It is recommended that septic tanks be pumped every 2-3 years (depending on the number of occupants in the home). Pump tanks can be pumped every other pump-out cycle if applicable.

- Plan ahead:

If you anticipate a large number of guests at your home, pumping out your tank *before* guests arrive can prevent any "over use" problems.

Don'ts for inside...

- Your septic system is not a trash can:

Don't use your septic system to dispose of food, coffee grounds, cigarette butts, sanitary products, diapers, cat box litter or excessive paper/personal hygiene products.

Don't use a garbage disposal

Don't put grease or cooking oil into the system

Don't poison your system with harmful chemicals (ex: paints, solvents, pesticides etc.)

- Water softeners should not discharge into the septic system.

Tips for Outside...

- Keep disposal field and tank area free of heavy machinery, equipment or vehicles.
- Do not cover any part of the system with pavement, driveway, decks or any obstructions.
- Divert downspouts, rainwater drainage, and sump pump discharge away from any septic components.
- To prevent soil erosion, it is good to plant shallow rooted vegetation over the system. Planting large rooted trees over/near the system will disrupt the tank or disposal field.

For more information, please visit us @ www.nj-septic.com



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Protecting Our Groundwater...One Septic System at a Time.