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How do I maintain my Septic System?

- Have your tank pumped every 3-5 years. A certified pumping professional can assess the condition of your tank, inlet/outlet pipes, baffle and filter. Regular pumping and inspections of the tank every 3-5 years is the best and most cost effective way to keep your septic system in good working order.
- New or modified septic tanks will have an effluent filter on the outlet pipe. This is designed to keep solids or sludge from reaching the drain field. This filter should be cleaned every year. This is done by simply spraying it off with a garden hose.
- If your system is pressurized, the pump chamber should be pumped out at the same time as the tank. Pumps, floats and alarms should be checked periodically to ensure they are working properly.
- Water softener systems CAN NOT discharge into your septic tank.

Do's

- ✓ Maintain a healthy grass cover over the septic field and prevent roots and trees from entering.
- ✓ Divert roof or foundation drains away from the septic field.
- ✓ Spread water use over time. For example: Do one load of laundry every second day rather than doing four loads all in one day.
- ✓ Keep pumping records, system approval, design information and the certificate of installation with your house papers. Please pass these along to any future home buyers.
- ✓ Water saving devices such as low flush toilets and low flow shower heads are recommended.

Don'ts

- × Don't overload the system with high volumes of water.
- × Don't allow water softener or other water treatment devices to back wash into the septic system.
- × Don't use your system beyond its intended design. Operating a home based business such as a daycare can overload and ruin a septic system if it is not intended for this volume.
- × Don't allow vehicles or equipment to drive over the septic field as they could damage the pipes.
- × Don't use chemical drain openers. Instead, try boiling water or a plumbing snake to clear clogged pipes.

Don't Flush

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| × Grease and Oils | × Tampons | × Paper Towel |
| × Hair | × Sanitary Napkins | × Flushable Wipes |
| × Pesticides | × Condoms | × Cigarette Butts |
| × Chemical Waste | × Cotton Swabs | × Coffee Grounds |
| × Paint & Thinners | × Disposable Diapers | × Kitty Litter |