

# Septic System Maintenance and Care

## What to Do :

- Pump your septic tank and pump chamber a minimum of once every 3 years. This should be done in late spring, summer or early fall.
  - Install water-conserving or low-volume fixtures in your home, if possible.
  - Try to spread out your wastewater loads over the course of the week. In other words, wash one load of clothes per day, rather than seven loads on one day.
  - Direct your roof gutter discharges away from your septic system.
  - Fix any leaky faucets, toilets or other fixtures to prevent excess wastewater in your system.
  - Install an effluent filter on your septic system to increase the life expectancy of your system. The effluent filter should be checked for cleaning at least once a year.
  - Conserve water, as much as possible, to reduce the amount of wastewater that must be disposed of and treated.
  - Discharge only biodegradable wastes into your septic system.
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## What Not to Do :

- Drain water softener discharge into your septic system. Premature system failure may occur.
- Use a garbage disposal with your septic system. Very premature system failure will occur.
- Discharge your sump pump into your septic system.
- Drain your waterbed into your septic system.
- Flush sanitary napkins, tampons, disposable diapers, condoms and other non-biodegradable products into your system.
- Dump solvents, oil, paint, thinners, disinfectants, pesticides or poisons into your septic system. These can disrupt the treatment process and contaminate the groundwater.
- Dig in your septic system or build anything over it.
- Plant anything over your septic system, except grass.
- Drive over your drain field or compact the soil in any way.