

SEPTIC TANK TIPS

- Do **NOT** pour greases, fats and oils down any drain.
- Once per year the affluent filter needs to be taken out, hosed off, and put back in.
- Do **NOT** attach a garbage disposal to your sink for ridding meat bones, coffee grounds, or other foods that are difficult to biodegrade.
- Do **NOT** dispose household chemicals in the drain, if you use disinfectants, laundry detergent or dish soap, and bleach in small amounts, try to use a low or no phosphorous detergent or soap, (Ultra is the generic term for low or no phosphorous) Avoid excessive amounts of mud or sand.
- Do **NOT** dispose of automobile fluids down any drain; be in gas, oil, transmission or brake fluid, grease, antifreeze, or latex paint, paint thinners, varnish, any kind of acids, nail polish, or nail polish remover, pesticides, solvents, oven cleaners, degreasers, or any hazardous chemicals into your system.
- Do **NOT** kill the beneficial bacteria in your septic system by rinsing pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer or any other toxins down the drain. Do **NOT** use caustic drain openers for a clogged drain. Instead use boiling water or a drain snake to free up clogs. Clean your toilet, sinks, showers, and tubs with a mild detergent or baking soda rather than a stronger and potentially system-damaging commercial bathroom cleaners.
- Do **NOT** dispose of any non-biodegradable item in your toilet, such as cigarette butts, disposable diapers, condoms, diaphragms, or feminine hygiene products, tampon wrappers or applicators, newspapers, paper towels, or Kleenex. NEVER use your toilet as a trash can. Be sure to especially avoid putting anything plastic or rubber down the toilet.
- Do **NOT** let water run while washing dishes and thawing frozen foods and consider limiting flushes.
- Do **NOT** run half loads in the dishwasher or washing machine and also try to stagger wash loads.
- Do **NOT** use chemicals to “start up” or “clean up” your system, they can hard your septic tank, drain field, or groundwater.
- Do **NOT** attach “clean water” sources such as footing or sump pumps to the septic system. Keep direct roof drains, basement sump pump drains and other rain water or surface water drainage systems away from the wastewater treatment system.
- Do **NOT** dump any type of “Home Brewing” waste into your tank. The yeast in it will kill the natural bacteria that is needed to keep your septic tank functioning properly.
- Do **NOT** use any type of Liquid Fabric softer in your washer. The chemicals leave a slimy residue that causes a film and will plug your system.
- Do **NOT** use any type of Powdered Detergents in your washer. Powdered Detergents contain several types of fillers most of which contain clay. The clay in the detergents will cause your system to plug.

You can attach all wastewater from the home into the septic tank, all toilets, sinks, bath, showers, washing machine, and dishwasher wastewaters. Any of these can contain disease causing germs or environmental pollutants.

TRY TO HAVE SEPTIC TANK PUMPED EVERY 3 – 5 YEARS

TRY TO USE NSF APPROVED ITEMS

In summary, care should be taken to not dispose of items into the system that will destroy the natural digestion process. Using antibiotics regularly will destroy the natural digestion process and you will need to have the septic tank pumped more frequent. Regularly pump out the sludge in the septic tank. If you adhere to these few simple rules, your septic tank system will prove to be a safe and economical on-site method for disposing of your rural home wastewater treatment system.