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Septic System Do's



Advice for septic system owners

Things to help your system run properly

- **Distribute laundry loads over several days**
Instead of doing many loads in one day, do one or two loads a day. Run your dishwasher & washing machines only when they are full.
- **Use Low Water Usage Appliances**
When purchasing new appliances make sure their water usage rate is low. 75% of all home water use is in the bathroom.
- **Repair all leaking taps**
A tap leaking just one drop of water per second wastes about 10000 litres of water per year. A leaking toilet can waste up to 20 times that amount.
- **Have your septic tank inspected annually**
The septic tank should be inspected to find out how much sludge & scum has accumulated. During the inspection, the effluent filter can be cleaned and a check for leaks is also done.
- **Have your septic tank pumped out every 2 to 3 years**
The accumulation of sludge & scum can reduce the operation volume of your septic tank.

Septic System Don't's



Advice for septic system owners

Things to avoid with an on-site septic system

Inert Materials

Plastic, rubber, scouring pads, dental floss, kitty litter, cigarette filters, bandages, hair, mop strings, lint, rags, cloth & towels do not degrade in an on-site treatment system. Inert materials will build up solids & lead to system malfunction, clogging or increased pump out frequency.

Paper Products

Disposable diapers, paper towels, baby wipes, facial tissues, toilet tissue that is lotioned, scented or quilted, moist towelettes, do not dissolve readily in an onsite treatment system.

Food Wastes

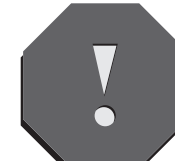
Do not put animal fats & bones, grease, coffee grounds, citrus & melon rinds, corn cobs, egg shells down the sink. Spoiled dairy products & yeasts from home brewery or baking may cause excessive growth of microbes that do not degrade sewage.

Other things to avoid with an on-site septic system:
Household products, medications/ailments, commercial additives, chemicals & toxins, laundry practices, clear water waste.

General Tips and Advice

- Do not dig without knowing the location of your septic tank & leaching bed areas.
- Do not use special additives that "enhance the performance" of your septic system.
- Do not discard items in the sewage treatment system that do not belong there.
- Do not overload the system beyond design capacity.
- Do not drive over the septic system or use it as a parking or storage area.
- Do not plant trees & shrubs close to the septic bed.

Trouble Signs



Extra plant growth/dead spots over leaching bed

Grass & other plants over the leaching bed will be green even throughout drought as they are being watered from below. If there is excessive growth it may

be a sign that water containing organic material is entering the leaching bed, whereas any dead spots of grass or plants could mean that the bed has become saturated. In either circumstance, it is advised that you have the tank pumped & inspected.

Sewage odours from lift pump in home

Your septic system may be too full. Call a licensed septic system contractor have the system checked.

Tile bed area is frequently wet & spongy

The water in the tile bed or leaching bed area may not be draining properly; soil in the bed may be clogged & too much water is entering the system. Call a licensed septic system contractor have the system checked.

Tile bed or leaching bed has a sewage odour

Solids may not be getting broken down & are retained in the septic tank, thereby entering the leaching bed; water may not be draining properly; pipe may be clogged. Call a licensed septic system contractor have the system checked.

Black oily liquid pooling or bubbling on surface

Call a licensed septic system contractor to have the system checked IMMEDIATELY!

Waste water backing up in home

If the level in the tank is at normal operating level, the pipe may be blocked from the house or the inlet baffle may be blocked or there may be a plumbing problem. In all cases, a call to your plumber is in order.

If the level in the tank is too high, the outlet baffle may be blocked, the filter(if one is installed) may need to be cleaned or replaced, the pipe to the tile bed may need to be checked. In this case, call a licensed septic system contractor have the system checked.

