

# It's Septic Awareness Week *USE YOUR SEPTIC SENSE!*

*September 16—20, 2019*

## IN YOUR HOME

### DO

- Compost kitchen wastes instead of using a garbage disposal.
- Scrape dishes into the garbage instead of the sink.
- Use a drain catcher to stop food bits from going down the drain.
- Install water-saving toilets or install toilet dam devices to reduce water use per flush and reduce the number of times you flush your toilet with multiple uses before flushing.
- Install water-saving faucets and shower heads.
- Take shorter showers.
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only with full loads, and select the proper load size for your machine.
- Wash only one or two loads of laundry a day, to spread out the load on your system.
- Ensure that water effluent from water softeners, reverse osmosis systems, and other clean wastewater is diverted away from septic systems.

### DON'T

- Do not put cigarette butts, paper towels, sanitary tampons, condoms, disposable diapers, plastics or similar non-biodegradable materials into your septic system.
- Avoid washing food scraps, coffee grinds, and other food items down the drain.
- Never put oil, gasoline, paint thinners, solvents, pesticides, pharmaceuticals or other toxic chemicals down the drain.

## MAINTENANCE

### DO

- Have a certified contractor (Maintenance Provider) confirm or develop a maintenance plan specific to your septic system that includes at minimum an annual assessment. This maintenance plan should include as constructed drawings.
- Have your tank pumped out as recommended by your Maintenance Provider.
- Have your effluent filter cleaned as needed, approximately every 6 months.
- Remove sludge in spring rather than fall to avoid loading the tank with undigested solids during cold months.
- Keep your septic tank cover accessible for inspections and pumping. Install risers if necessary and always keep the tank lid secure.
- Package treatment plants are maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications.

### DON'T

- Do not enter or access a septic tank.
- Do not use septic tank additives.
- Do not disinfect, scrub and wash the tank.

## IN YOUR YARD

### DO

- Know the location of your septic tank or package treatment plant and soils treatment components.
- Be aware there are required setbacks for the installation of underground sprinklers in the vicinity of septic systems.
- Watch for any ground settlement that might direct water onto the soils treatment components.
- Keep the area around the septic tank and dispersal area grassed to promote evaporation and avoid erosion.

### DON'T

- Do not allow vehicles to drive over, or park on, any septic system components.
- Do not use a septic field as pens or pastures for animals.
- Do not plant any trees or shrubs on or near the bed or tanks; their roots can clog pipes.
- Do not drain downspouts, sump pumps, etc. into the septic system.
- Do not alter drainage features without consideration for impacts to the dispersal field.
- Do not build over any septic or soils component or cover it with a hard surface such as asphalt, brick or patio stones.
- Do not excessively water the lawn over the soils treatment component area.





# Septic System Maintenance Record

Use this log sheet to keep a record of the maintenance and inspections of your personal sewage treatment system just like it was your automobile. If you have more than one septic system on your property, be sure to keep a separate record for each system.

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