

GENERAL SEPTIC SYSTEM GUIDELINES

As a homeowner, it is your responsibility to maintain your septic system to keep it operating properly. You should follow these guidelines to avoid future problems.

DO have your tank pumped and inspected by a certified pumper every 3 to 5 years. Ask for and keep a copy of your pumping record. A list of pumpers can be obtained by contacting this office.

DO clean your effluent filter, which can be found in the outlet compartment of the septic tank, once a year. Simply spray it off with a water hose, making sure the filter is over the septic tank opening so runoff goes into tank and not onto the lawn.

DO practice water conservation. You should repair leaky faucets and toilets, avoid long showers and use water saving features in faucets, shower heads and toilets. Excessive water consumption can overload your system.

DO keep a drawing of the drain field. This will help prevent problems when digging or planting.

DO divert roof drains, footing drains and surface runoff from driveways and hillsides away from the septic system as this could cause overloading problems.

DO use bleach, disinfectants, toilet bowl and drain cleaners **sparingly** and in accordance with product labels.

DO plant only grass over and near your septic system. Roots from trees or shrubs could clog or damage the drainfield. Keep the grass mowed.

DON'T allow anyone to drive or park anything heavier than lawn equipment on any part of the system. The area over the drainfield should be left undisturbed to avoid damage and compaction.

DON'T make changes or repairs to the system before contacting a licensed contractor.

DON'T use commercial septic tank additives. These products usually do not help and might hurt the system in the long run. Avoid caustic drain openers, use boiling water instead.

DON'T use your system as a trash can by dumping non degradable materials down your toilet or drains. Do not put dental floss, feminine hygiene products, condoms, diapers, cotton swabs, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, cat litter, paper towels, latex paint, pesticides, or other hazardous chemicals into your system. Do not dump grease or oil.

For more information contact Misty Kroeze at: 319-267-2934 or the EPA website at:

http://www.epa.gov/owm/septic/pubs/homeowner_guide_long.pdf