



WHAT TO DO AND NOT DO WHEN ON AN ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL (SEPTIC) SYSTEM

DO

- Conserve water.....
the less extra water a system receives, the less work it has to do, the more effective the processes are and the longer it can last
- Stagger use of water generating appliances.....
this serves to spread the rate of inflow and the loading over more time which allows for system components to operate more effectively
- Correct malfunctioning plumbing.....
the added water from a running toilet or leaking fixture can produce significant extra volume which can lead to irreparable damage to the system; 1 gallon a minute is 1440 gallons in 24 hours
- Limit or eliminate use of a garbage disposal.....
the added solids serves to not only fill the septic tank faster but can result in the tank being ineffective in settling out the suspended solids from the effluent
- Dispose of waste foods thru the garbage.....
not down a sink, drain or toilet
- Use substitutes rather than chemicals.....
for maintenance of drains, traps and fixtures
- Know where the components are located.....
especially the electrical breaker, alarm and/or control panel if there is a pump involved
- Keep records.....
of the permit, maintenance (pumping) & repairs
- Have the tank inspected and measured every three (3) years.....
the need for pumping depends on the size of the tank, the number of people making use of the system and nature of the solids collected, five (5) is typical
- Keep the drainfield covered in grass or equal vegetation.....
maintained to facilitate the uptake of liquid and nutrients and avoid erosion
- Maintain any access lid incl. electrical, accessible.....
when something goes wrong you want to be able to access things easily and quickly
- Clean components as needed.....
best left to a DEQ certified service professional

DON'T

- Flush material that will not easily decompose.....
like plastics, diapers, hygiene products, personal wipes, towels, cigarets etc.
- Pour cooking oil, grease or petrochemicals of any type down drains or a toilet.....
these agents can clog pipes, interrupt biological and chemical processes
- Drain or flush chemicals of any type.....
including concentrated bleach, medicines, paint etc., that which you would not want to be in contact with, as they can be antibacterial
- Use additives.....
the process is biological and only needs natural occurring waste in good quantity and quality
- Allow the discharge of a water softener backflush process to enter the system.....
directly or indirectly as through the building plumbing
- Dump RV generated waste to the system.....
the chemical content can be detrimental to treatment processes, including a septic tank
- Allow vehicle traffic over the drainfield.....
the compaction of the soil porosity can affect permeability which is irreversible
- Plant large or woody vegetation in the drainfield or near the tank or in front of a control panel
root growth can penetrate or cover the components leading to physical damage and/or interference
- Allow surface water or artificial drainage from entering the drainfield or tank areas.....
the infiltration of ground and surface water is a serious hydraulic detriment to all systems
- Undertake repairs or alterations to the system without a permit.....
all work upon a system requires a permit or regulatory authorization and is best performed by a qualified licensed contractor
- Forget to take action in the event of an alarm with any mechanical system component.....
it simply means something is not working as it should and needs attention, the sooner the better and by a DEQ certified service provider or licensed contractor