Septic System Do’s and Don’ts

DO
- Learn the location of your septic tank and drainfield
- Pump your septic tank every 3-5 years
- Keep your septic tank cover secured and accessible for maintenance
- Keep a detailed record of repairs, pumping, inspections, etc.
- Conserve water to avoid overloading the system
- Repair leaky plumbing fixtures – a leaky toilet can add 6,000 gallons a month to the sewage system
- Spread out water use throughout the day and week to avoid sudden overloading
- Wash clothes over the entire week and avoid half loads
- Prevent roof, foundation, driveway, basement, water softener discharge from entering the septic tank or disposal area

DON’T
- Drive or park on any part of the tank or field
- Go down into your septic tank
- Make repairs without consulting your health department
- Ignore slow drains or standing water on top of the septic tank or drainfield
- Dig into your drainfield or build anything over it

Sewage Systems aren’t trash cans, never pour down drain or flush
- Cooking grease or oil
- Flushable wipes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Condoms
- Dental Floss
- Cigarette butts
- Coffee grounds
- Cat litter
- Paper towels
- Medicines
- Household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, paint, or paint thinner
Maintenance Record

**Use the Following Spaces** to record information about your own septic tank system. Some of this can be copied from your Approval for Use, which can be obtained from your county health department. Having good maintenance records can be a positive selling point for your home when the time comes (wouldn’t you rather buy a car that has a proven maintenance record?).

**Permit Number:** __________________________  **Date Issued:** __________________________

**Issued to:** __________________________  **Date Installed:** __________________________

**Address:** ________________________________________________________________

**System Description:** ______________________________________________________

**Drain field Type:**

☐ Conventional Trenches  ☐ Gravel  ☐ Chamber
☐ Shallow Trenches  ☐ Gravelless pipe  ☐ Styrofoam
☐ Mound / Controlled Fill  ☐ Drip Irrigation  ☐ Tire Chips
☐ Bed  ☐ Other

**Septic Tank Size (gallons)** __________________________

**Pump Tank Size (gallons)** __________________________

**Drain field Dimensions:** __________________________

**Number of Trenches:** __________________________

**Trench Length:** __________________________

**Septic Tank System Installer:**

**Name:** __________________________

**Address:** __________________________

**Telephone:** __________________________

**Septic Tank System Pumper:**

**Name:** __________________________

**Address:** __________________________

**Telephone:** __________________________

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**System Maintenance Record**

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