

Do's and Don'ts of your Aerobic Septic System

Many operational problems with onsite septic systems exist because owners are unaware of the results their daily practices have on these systems. It is the owner's responsibility to operate the wastewater treatment system to the best of their ability; to keep maintenance to a minimum and insure high effluent quality. Please use the lists below as reference.



Do...

- Conserve water — **your system treats 20-25 gallons of water per hour.** Try and do laundry over a weeks time and not all in one day; do not use powdered laundry detergents or additives of any kind. Recommended detergents are low-sudsing, low phosphates and biodegradable.
- Minimize the amount of solid wastes — your system is designed to treat human waste and toilet paper. The more solids go in (i.e. garbage disposal) the more often they have to come out by having your system pumped.

Don'ts / Items to Avoid

- Backwash discharge from any type of water softener
- Inert Materials — plastics, dental floss, cigarette filters, bandages, hair, lint
- Paper Products — disposable diapers, tampons, sanitary napkins, cotton swabs, cotton balls, facial tissue, baby wipes, quilted toilet tissue, **NO "FLUSHABLE" CLEANING WIPES OF ANY KIND SHOULD BE FLUSHED OR PUT IN THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL**
- Food Wastes — animal fats and bones, grease, coffee grounds, citrus fruit rinds, corn cobs, or eggshells should not be put in the garbage disposal
- Cleaning Products/Commercial Additives — some disinfecting cleansers may kill the organisms needed to keep the good bacteria level proper in your tanks. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and others have found no evidence that additives support a normally functioning onsite treatment system
- Chemicals/Toxins — the following materials will kill the organisms necessary for treatment to occur correctly in your tanks — paint, paint thinner, solvents, drain cleaners, automotive fluids, fuels, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, disinfectants, sanitizers, **bleach**, higher use of household chemicals other than small amounts used in day to day house cleaning and laundries
- DO NOT USE Charmin or Northern, Look for the NSF approved symbol on all toilet tissues

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Flushable does
not mean
Biodegradable!!