Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart: The Do’s and Don’ts of Your Septic System

Learn these simple steps to protect your home, health, environment and property value:

Protect It and Inspect It:

Do:
• Have your system inspected (in general) every three years by a licensed contractor and have the tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years.

Think at the Sink:

Don’t:
• Pour cooking grease or oil down the sink or toilet.
• Rinse coffee grounds into the sink.
• Pour household chemicals down the sink or flush them.

Do:
• Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal.
• Properly dispose of coffee grounds & food.
• Put grease in a container to harden before discarding in the trash.

Don’t Overload the Commode:

Don’t:
• Flush non-degradable products or chemicals, such as feminine hygiene products, condoms, dental floss, diapers, cigarette butts, cat litter, paper towels, pharmaceuticals.

Do:
• Dispose of these items in the trash can!

Shield Your Field:

Don’t:
• Park or drive on your drainfield. The weight can damage the drain lines.
• Plant trees or shrubs too close to your drainfield, roots can grow into your system and clog it.

Do:
• Consult a septic service professional to advise you of the proper distance for planting trees and shrubs, depending on your septic tank location.

Don’t Strain Your Drain:

Don’t:
• Concentrate your water use by using your dishwasher, shower, washing machine, and toilet at the same time. All that extra water can really strain your septic system.

Do:
• Stagger the use of water-generating appliances. This can be helpful especially if your system has not been pumped in a long time.
• Become more water efficient by fixing plumbing leaks and consider installing bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators and water-efficient products.