

You Better Be Nice to Your Septic System...

Many homeowners are under the misconception that a septic system does NOT require care and feeding. It does. If the sludge gets too high, it will clog the leach field. If you pump too often, it is detrimental. Here are some tips on taking care of your septic system to prevent a systemic failure. Maintenance is cheaper than repair:

REDUCE SLUDGE BUILDUP	
Inspect your tank every three years and pump accordingly – suggested every three years, but it depends on usage	Don't wait for signs of failure
Compost garbage or throw it away	Don't use a garbage grinder
Dispose of grease in a can	Don't put grease or oil down the drain
Use biodegradable soaps & detergents	Don't over use bleach or soaps
REDUCE WATER USE	
Install low water use fixtures	Don't flush the toilet unnecessarily
Use a water saving device in your toilet tank – one designed for that purpose	Don't put a brick in your toilet tank – it can crumble, causing the tank to leak, or it could clog your septic system
Fix leaky faucets & toilets	Don't overfill your bath tub
Load your washing machine and dish washer completely	Don't empty roof drains into the septic
PROTECT THE LEACHING SYSTEM	
Use caution in what goes down the drain. A good rule is normal household liquids & waste, as well as toilet paper.	Don't put pesticides, disinfectants, acids, medicines, paint, paint thinner, or other materials that will kill the bacteria in the tank
KEEP THE BACTERIA WORKING	
Insist on proper location and construction of a leach system	Don't park heavy vehicles on the leaching system. They can crush the pipe or compact the soil adversely
Keep rooted trees and bushes away from the leaching system	Don't plant a flower bed over the septic area
Use enzyme whiteners versus bleach	
KNOW WHERE YOUR SYSTEM IS!	
Make a map of your system, know the location of your tank, leach field, and the riser. Write it down!	Don't trust your memory as to where your tank and lines are!