



# Septic Care

## Do

### ☺ Know where your septic tank is and protect it!

- ◆ Locate your as-built or map locating all septic parts.
- ◆ Keep septic tank lids easily accessible.
- ◆ Inspect system annually.
- ◆ Pump tank regularly (3-5 years).
- ◆ Keep maintenance and other system records.

### ☺ Reduce water use.

- ◆ Use low-flow faucets, showers, toilets.
- ◆ Run appliances one at a time (dishwasher, washing machine).
- ◆ Spread laundry over entire week and avoid partial loads.
- ◆ Showers use less water than baths.
- ◆ Limit shower length.
- ◆ Fix all faucets and toilet leaks promptly.
- ◆ Turn water off while brushing or shaving.

### ☺ Plant grass, or other very shallow-rooted plants over drainfield.

### ☺ Direct runoff from roofs, streets, driveways & adjoining properties away from drainfield.

### ☺ Use phosphate-free detergent and only recommended amount.

### ☺ Most pumpers recommend liquid cleaners instead of bulk, economy-sized powdered detergents.

### ☺ Keep irrigation or sprinkler systems at least 10 feet from drainfield.

**For More Information: Visit our WEB Page at [www.HealthyMasonCounty.org](http://www.HealthyMasonCounty.org)**

## Don't

### ☹ Don't flush non-biodegradable solid wastes down the toilet or the drain.

Diapers	Cigarette Butts
Coffee Grounds	Condoms
Grease	Oils
Plastics	Bones
Kitty Litter	Dental Floss
Paper Towels	Personal Hygiene Items

### ☹ Don't pour strong chemicals, like cleaning products, and other bacteria-destroying products down the drain.

Drain Cleaners	Solvents
Paint	Paint Thinners
Floor Cleaners	Sink Cleaners
Motor Oil	Antifreeze
Pesticides	Photo Chemicals
Other Household Cleaners	
Excessive Amounts of Bleach	

### ☹ Do not park vehicles or heavy equipment (including boats) over drainfield.

### ☹ Do not use tank additives or "miracle" system cleaners.

### ☹ Do not run storm drainage, hot tubs, or drains from water softeners into septic system.

### ☹ Do not discard medications (like antibiotics) down drains or toilet.

### ☹ Do not compact soils in drainfield or reserve area in any way by building:

Patios	Carports
Decks	Additions
Sports Courts	Storage Sheds

### ☹ Do not cover drainfield or reserve area by:

☠ Using landscaping plastic or fabric, gravel, bark, other mulch

☠ Paving asphalt or concrete

☠ Above ground swimming pool.

(These may retain moisture and reduce oxygen exchange.)