

Homeowner's Guide to Maintaining Your Home Sewage Treatment System

Read and follow the Do's and Don'ts below to enhance the function and extend the life of your system. Routine maintenance can improve the function and life of a system and prevent a costly, premature failure.

DO

- Contract with a registered septage hauler to inspect and pump out your septic tank or aerobic treatment tank every 2-5 years.
- Contract with a registered Lake County Service Provider to properly maintain your sewage treatment system.
- Keep the septic tank cover accessible with a watertight riser for ease of pumping.
- Divert roof water from gutters, footer drains, & divert surface drainage away from the soil absorption field and out of the septic tank.
- Conserve water to avoid overloading the septic system.
- Repair drips and leaks in your plumbing as soon as possible.
- Learn the location of your septic system and protect it from physical damage.
- Wash your laundry over the course of the week; don't overload the system by doing all of your laundry in one day.
- Call a professional if you have problems or smell sewer gases in your home.
- Keep children and spectators away from any work being done on the sewage treatment system.

DON'T

- Drive or park over any part of the septic system.
- Plant trees or shrubs over your leach lines. Roots from nearby trees may clog and damage your drain lines.
- Dig or build anything over your leach lines, mound or drip tubing.
- Use your toilet as a trashcan; keep diapers, cigarette filters, condoms, cat litter, coffee grounds, cotton swabs and feminine hygiene products out of your system.
- Put excessive chemicals such as pesticides, disinfectants, solvents, oils, paints, thinners or poisons down the drain. Chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria that treat your wastewater and can contaminate the groundwater.
- Pour grease down your sink.
- Use septic tank additives; under normal operation conditions these products usually are not needed and some may even be harmful.
- Ever enter the septic tank, or aerobic treatment tank.
- Make or allow repairs to your sewage treatment system without obtaining the required Health District permit and inspection.

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Lake County
General Health District

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