



SEPTIC Do's and Don'ts

If you take good care of your system, you will save yourself the time, money and worries involved in replacing a failed system. Failed systems can be hazardous to the environment and your pocketbook. It can degrade water supplies and reduce you property value.
Here are some valuable tips to ensure the longevity of you system:

DO	DON'T
do familiarize yourself with the location of your system	don't flush hazardous chemicals, paint, cigarette butts or sanitary products
do keep an "as built" system diagram in a safe place for reference	don't use a garbage disposal or garburator
do divert surface water away from your leaching bed	don't plant trees or shrubs too close to the system or leaching bed
do pump out your tank on a regular basis (3-5 years)	don't dig without knowing the location of your septic system
do repair leaky plumbing fixtures	don't drive over your tank or leaching bed
do conserve water to reduce the amount of wastewater that must be treated	don't enter a tank - gases and lack of oxygen can be fatal
do replace old toilets with low-flush models	don't connect rain gutters, storm drains or allow surface water to drain into a sewage system
do keep lint out of your septic system by cleaning the lint filter on your washing machine	don't leave interior faucets on to protect water lines during cold spells — insulate your faucets and plumbing.
do keep the tank access lid secure to the riser all the time	don't connect water softeners to your system, as the salt content can destroy the bacteria required and can overload the system when backwashing
do keep accurate records of septic system maintenance and service calls	

For more information on septic systems and their care please visit our web site www.oowa.org