Top 10 Ways to Be a Good Septic Owner

- Have your system inspected every three years by a qualified professional or according to your state/ local health department's recommendations
- Have your septic tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years
- Avoid pouring harsh products (e.g., oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications) down the drain
- Discard non-degradable products in the trash (e.g., floss, disposable wipes, cat litter) instead of flushing them
- Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from the drainfield and tank
- Follow the system manufacturer's directions when using septic tank cleaners and additives
- Repair leaks and use water efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system
- Maintain plants and vegetation near the system to ensure roots do not block drains
- Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, biodegradable, and low- or phosphate-free
- Prevent system freezing during cold weather by inspecting and insulating vulnerable system parts (e.g., the inspection pipe and soil treatment area)



For more SepticSmart tips, visit www.epa.gov/septicsmart



Do Your Part. Be SepticSmart!



Shield Your Field

Divert rain and surface water away and avoid parking vehicles and planting trees on your drainfield.



Don't Overload the Commode

Don't flush diapers, wipes or other items meant for a trashcan down the toilet.

Toilet paper

Think at the Sink

Limit use of your garbage disposal and avoid pouring fats, grease, solids and harsh chemicals down the drain.



Drainfield

Septic Tank

Don't Strain Your Drain

Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances, such as your washing machine or dishwasher.

Well

Groundwater Recharge

Protect It and Inspect It

A typical septic system should be serviced every one to three years by a septic service professional.

Pump Your Tank

Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended by a professional.

Aquifer

Keep It Clean

If you are on a well, test your drinking water regularly to ensure it remains clean and free of contamination.

