

## **Septic Do's and Don'ts**

Detergents, kitchen wastes, laundry wastes and household chemicals in normal amounts do not affect the proper operation of household sewage treatment systems. However, excessive quantities can be harmful.

### **!Do Not!**

Here are some things (not a complete list) that should not ever go into the septic tank and leaching fields!

1. Avoid the disposal of cigarette butts, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, plastics, trash, etc., into your household sewage system. These items are not readily decomposed.
2. Non-Biodegradable Products – chemicals and solids (tampons, cigarette butts, condoms, or other similar items, hair, bandages, rags, strings, coffee grounds or cereals).
3. Paper towels and handy wipes; no matter what the box or manufacturer, etc. says!
4. No anti-bacterial soaps – Biodegradable soaps only! Do not use what is called “biocompatible soaps”.
5. Heavy dose and long-term use of Mr. Bubbles/Dow’s spray toilet cleaner or any other excessively strong cleaner.
6. Chlorine and chemicals in excess (1 part chlorine 5 parts of water is a good spray bacteria cleaner)
7. Excessive laundry – loads should be spaced out (one day of doing all laundry is a No No!)
8. Dirt and inert products (muddy clothes and vegetables should be dusted off before washing) this applies to common senses in maintaining all types of septic systems
9. Disposable baby wipes / diapers / hand and facial wipes – Dispose them in a garbage can
10. Dead fish or small animals
11. Be considerate in the use of the garbage disposal as this can cause a buildup of sediment in the septic system.
12. Latex, plastic or metallic objects