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### SEPTIC SYSTEM DO'S AN DON'TS

(from the National Small Flows Clearinghouse)

#### DO

- ❖ Check with the local regulatory agency or inspector/plumber if you have a garbage disposal unit to make sure that your septic system can handle the additional waste
- ❖ Check with your local health department before using additives. Commercial septic tank additives do not eliminate the need for periodic pumping and can be harmful to your system.
- ❖ Use water efficiently to avoid overloading the septic system. Be sure to repair leaky faucets or toilets and use high-efficiency fixtures.
- ❖ Use commercial bathroom cleaners and laundry detergents in moderation.
- ❖ Check with your local regulatory agency or inspector/pumper before allowing water softener backwash to enter your septic tank
- ❖ Keep records of repairs, pumping, inspection permits issued and other system maintenance activities.
- ❖ Learn the location of your septic tank and drain field. Keep a sketch of it with your maintenance records for service visits.
- ❖ Have your septic system inspected and pumped by a licensed inspector/company.
- ❖ Plant only grass over and near your septic system. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs might clog and damage the drain field.

#### DON'T

- ❖ Your septic system is not a trash can. Don't put dental floss, feminine hygiene products, condoms, diapers, wipes, cotton swabs, cigarette butts, coffee ground, cat litter, paper towels, latex paint, hypodermic needles, pesticides or other hazardous chemicals into your system.
- ❖ Don't use caustic drain openers for clogged drains. Instead, use boiling water or a drain snake to open clogs.
- ❖ Don't drive or park vehicles of any kind on any part of your system. Doing so can compact the soil or damage the pipes, tank, or other components of your system.

**NOTICE: If you have any questions about your system call Cliff's Septic Services, Inc. at (352) 796-4540**

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