

Septic system owner's guidelines

A modern septic system leach field can last twenty years or more if you and your family:

- Eliminate the use of a garbage disposal.
- Do not put grease down drains.
- Spread loads of laundry out over time rather than doing multiple loads in a short period of time, and use liquid detergents rather than powdered detergents.
- Avoid excessively long showers.
- Avoid leaving tap water running when shaving, brushing teeth or doing other personal or household tasks.
- Do not flush medications, harmful chemicals, excessive amounts of bleach, harsh drain cleaners or degreasers.
- Have the septic tank pumped at least every three years.
- Do not add any septic system cleaners, enzymes or additives.
- Remove water conditioning backwash discharges from the septic system.
- Do not plant trees and shrubs over leach fields.
- Do not flush personal products, paper towels, wipes or diapers.
- Do not clean or rinse paint brushes in the sinks.
- Equip all hot tubs, spas, whirlpool baths, etc., with drain limiting valves that will only allow five gallons per minute to drain from fixture.
- Install a good quality effluent filter
- Do not drive vehicles over leach fields.

Not adhering to these guidelines can dramatically reduce the life of the leach field and will probably cause it to fail prematurely.

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