

Kitchen

DO:

- Use natural, plant-based, and biodegradable cleaners.
- Use Environmental Working Group's [Guide to Healthy Cleaning](#) to find septic safe cleaners.

DON'T PUT DOWN DRAINS:

- Coffee grounds
- Eggshells
- Pharmaceuticals
- Produce stickers
- Flour
- Oil including cooking oil
- Grease
- Fat
- Dairy – milk, cream, butter
- Bleach
- Ammonia
- Phosphates
- Petroleum-based chemicals
- Antibacterial soap
- Any harsh chemical cleaning solution
- Drain cleaners
- Don't overuse the garbage disposal

Septic Tank

DO:

- Schedule inspection at least every 3 years.
- Schedule inspection every year for alternative systems that have mechanical components, electrical float switches, or pumps.
- Schedule your tank to be pumped every 3-5 years.
- Keep a record of your inspections and pumpings.

DON'T:

- Use septic tank additives.

Drain Field

DO:

- Direct gutters, sump pumps, and other rainwater drainage systems away from your drain field.
- Plant trees and shrubs an appropriate distance away from your drain field.

DON'T:

- Park or drive on your drain field.

Do's & Don'ts of Septic

Taking care of your septic system is easy and affordable. Effective management entails nurturing the septic ecosystem and making a few minor adjustments in habit for routine maintenance.

Bathroom: Don't Use Toilet as Trash Can

DO NOT FLUSH:

- Anything that didn't come out of your body, aside from septic-safe TP
- Toilet paper with added lotions or oils
- Feminine hygiene products
- Tissues
- Hair
- Dental floss
- Cat litter
- Paper towels
- Cigarette butts
- Pharmaceuticals
- Condoms
- Baby wipes or other wet wipes
- Diapers

Laundry

DO:

- Spread laundry out throughout week
- Use biodegradable detergents
- Use white distilled vinegar with essential oils instead of fabric softener

DON'T:

- Save all laundry for same day
- Use harsh chemical detergents
- Use bleach
- Use fabric softener

Water Conservation Devices

DO USE:

- High efficiency toilets
- Faucet aerators
- High-efficiency shower heads
- Energy Star dish washers
- Energy Star washing machines

How to Tell if Your Drain Field is Failing

- Bad odors in yard
- Standing water in drain field
- Extra green grass in drain field area
- Drainage issues in the home
- Reverse flow from drain field towards tank