



"DOs and DONTs"

General Septic Maintenance Recommendations

Proper maintenance of your septic system can help prevent premature failure of your soil absorption system. **Podgurski Corporation** recommends the following:

DO:

PUMP your system on a regular basis, preferably ANNUALLY for most households. Larger Systems, such as those serving multi-family locations or commercial properties, may require more frequent pumping. The purpose of pumping is to remove solid material and scum material from the tank. This will help prevent unwanted material floating out to the leaching facility.

OPEN your D-Box every THREE TO FOUR YEARS. This is a good way to spot little problems before they grow into bigger ones.

ENSURE that your VENT PIPES are INSTALLED properly. Vent pipes are used to allow oxygen into the system, thereby allowing bacteria to breathe and grow.

MAKE sure you know WHERE your LEACHING FIELD is LOCATED. If the field ever goes into failure and d "break out", it would be necessary to isolate the area for health protection.

MAKE sure you know WHERE your TANK is located. Check the covers to make sure that they are not deteriorating and causing a potential hazard.

LOOK for GREEN STRIPES over the leaching field. If you see this, it is indicative of a field starting to back-up. Act immediately when you see this warning sign.

CHECK to determine if you can smell any ODORS from the field location. Odors can indicate that the leaching facility is having a problem.

RAISE the tank COVERS up to WITHIN 6" of GRADE.

USE liquid detergents and use a small amount of bleach when cleaning toilets, etc.

USE NON-ABARASIVE HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS.

USE ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE PRODUCTS.

INSTALL WATER SAVING DEVICES, where appropriate.

AVOID having roof gutters and downspouts DRAIN ONTO the LEACHING FIELD.



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DON'T: **DISPOSE** any NON-BIOGRADEABLE MATTER IN TOILETS. Foreign items can cause blockages in the lines and back-ups.

WASH paintbrushes used in latex or oil PAINT. Paint residues are not broken down by a leaching facility and impede its ability to function.

ALLOW ANY GREASE or FAT to enter the system. Residential sites do not have grease traps. Therefore, if grease is allowed into the system it will congeal and travel out to the leaching facility leading to damage.

DISPOSE BONES, EGG SHELLS, COFFEE GROUNDS, DENTAL FLOSS, or FIBROUS MATERIAL, etc. when using a garbage disposal.

USE POWDERED DETERGENTS with PHOSPHATES. They don't break down and can re-solidify.

USE any DRAIN CLEANERS. Call a roofer professional or buy a small roofer snake at the hardware store. Drain cleaners KILL bacteria. Bacteria keeps your system live.

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