



## The Do's and Don't for your septic system.

**An ounce of  
prevention is  
worth a pound  
of cure!**

**879-4544**

**www.envirotechofvt.com**

## Do

- ◆ Be conservative with the amount of water being used, such as showers, laundry, and **limit the use of antibacterial soap.**
- ◆ Space the use of your laundry so that it's not one load after another. A top loading washer at full capacity uses about 35 - 50 gallons per load. **Front load washers are very good, they use less water.**
- ◆ Repair any leaking faucets or toilets. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" was never more true than it is with your on site septic system.
- ◆ **Have your tank cleaned regularly**, every 3-5 years. Typically a 1000 gal tank for a home of 1-4 bedrooms. Usage is between 150 - 300 gal per day per bedroom.
- ◆ Keep heavy vehicles, and equipment away from the septic tank and the leach field.
- ◆ Have your septic tank cleaned by an experienced and professional septic company. **You need to know there is a right way and a wrong way to clean your septic tank.**
- ◆ Get to know where your septic tank and leach field is, and how the septic system works.
- ◆ **Avoid Charmin and Costco/Kirkland toilet paper they are heavy products and not good for septic systems.** Cottonelle toilet paper breaks down very good. Use any single ply toilet paper.
- ◆ Install a septic tank filter on the outlet side of your tank, your septic system will last longer. **(Zabel filter)** The filter should be cleaned every year to prevent sewage back ups into the home.

## Don't

- ◆ **Garbage disposals are not recommended** and will cause damage to your septic leach field. The food that is chopped up fine, will float and go out to your septic leach field, also they will not decompose. Don't use your garbage disposal like a garbage can. **Do not pour food grease down the drain put it in a can or jar.**
- ◆ According to the **EPA bacteria additives** such as **yeast**, and **RiD-X are not needed** to keep your septic system working properly. **Some additives will actually do more harm than good.** Yeast will only break down starches.
- ◆ **Don't overuse cleaning chemicals**, including bleaches, and drain cleaners. This is hard for the bacteria to break down and will kill the good bacteria.
- ◆ **Above ground swimming pools should not be installed near or above your septic tank**, or especially the septic leach field. This also include ice skating rinks in the winter, we have had customers kill their septic leach fields because of their desires for an ice rink.
- ◆ Non - biodegradable items such as feminine hygiene products, condoms, **cigarette butts**, baby wipes and diapers should not be disposed of into your toilet.
- ◆ Engine oil, gas, turpentine, or any other chemicals that are not biodegradable **should not be poured down the drain! This will kill the bacteria in your septic tank.**
- ◆ **Water softeners should not back flush** ( self cleaning ) **empty into the septic tank.** This will add sulfides, and chlorides to the septic system that will kill good bacteria. If you're able to direct discharge the water from the water softener to the outside during the warmer weather months that would be ideal.



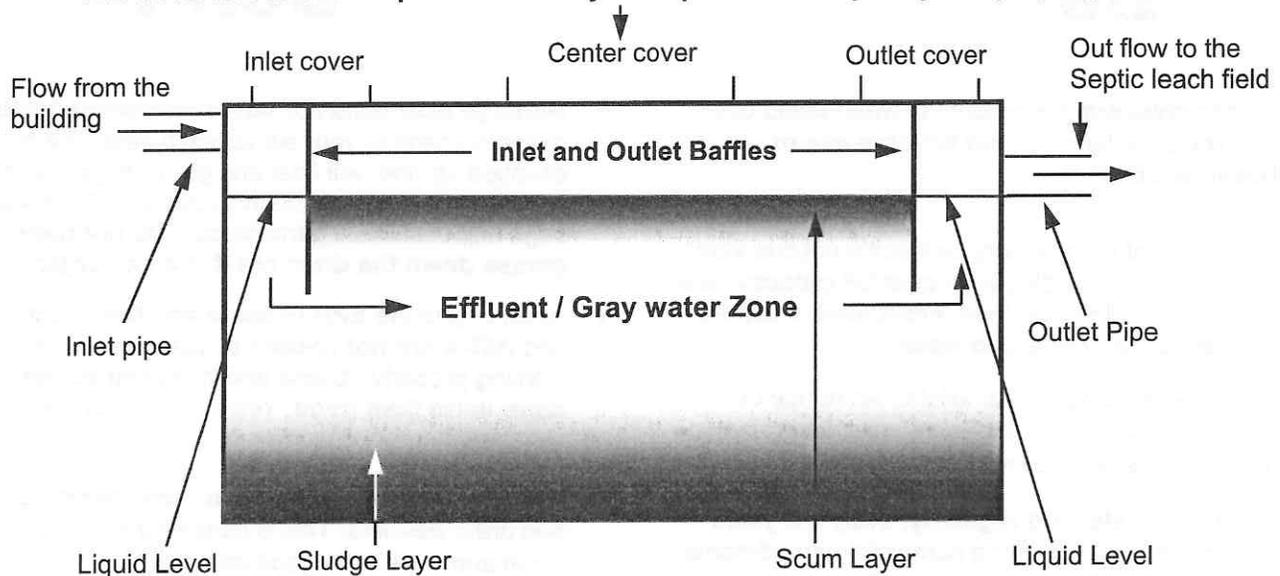
Locally owned and operated  
by Randy Duval.

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**This is a 1,000 gallon concrete septic tank in normal working order.  
Dimensions of the septic tank are roughly 4 feet wide x 8 feet long x 4 feet deep.**

**This cover needs to be exposed to clean your septic tank completely and properly.**



- ◆ Your septic tank performs a number of jobs, but most importantly it is a filter. By trapping the solids that either float and become the scum layer or sinks and become the sludge layer, than allowing what we call gray water to flow out of the septic tank and to be absorbed in the septic leach field.
- ◆ If the liquid level is above the outlet pipe that is a possible sign of septic leach field failure. Especially if there is water flowing back into the septic tank from the leach field while the septic tank is being cleaned
- ◆ The outlet pipe should remain dry at all times unless there is water being introduced into the septic tank from the building. Examples are 5 gallons of water flowing into the tank from the building, than there will be 5 gallons of gray water flowing out to the septic leach field from the tank
- ◆ On average septic tanks should be cleaned every 3 - 5 years with a normal household of 2 – 5 adults depending on the use, and the amount of solids in the tank. **Having your tank cleaned is only preventive maintenance just like changing the oil in your car, we hope you do change your oil!**