



Mercer County Board of Health

Septic System Do's and Don't's

DO

- Learn and record the location of your septic tank and drain field. Keep a copy on file.
- Have your tank pumped at least every three (3) years
- Keep a record of pumping, inspections, and other maintenance.
- Practice water conservation. Promptly repair leaks, run full loads in dishwashers and washing machines, and use water saving features on faucets, showerheads, and toilets.
- Divert roof drains, surface water, and sump pump discharges away from the system.
- Dispose of chemicals at a hazardous waster collection facility. Use bleach, disinfectants, and drain cleaners sparingly.

DON'T

- Drive or park on your system. Only use grass mowers. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs may damage your system.
- Use a garbage disposal or put cooking oil or grease into a system. These can lead to early system failure.
- Put non-degradable items such as diapers, sanitary pads, plastics, cigarettes, etc. into system.
- Dispose of gasoline, oil, pain thinners, pesticides, or anti-freeze. These will lead to system failure and may cause dangerous gas build-ups.
- Use commercial additives. These products usually do not work and some may actually harm the system.