

# Tips for protecting and maintaining your Septic system

## DO'S AND DON'TS

### **Don't flush or pour down the drain any dangerous and damaging substances into your waste water treatment system. Such as:**

- *Non-biodegradable objects* like disposable diapers, baby/hygiene wipes, condoms, tampons, cat litter, paper towels, facial tissues or cigarette butts. etc
- Medication
- Grease or cooking oils
- Toxic or flammable products, like paint or paint thinner  
Don't clean latex or oil paint brushes at sink
- Solvents, industrial cleaners or disinfectants
- Household cleaners, floor wax, rug cleaners
- Chlorine bleach or ammonia products
- Coffee grounds or other food or compost scraps
- Water softener or water filter backwash
- Pool or spa products or its waste water
- Pesticides, herbicides, agricultural chemicals or fertilizers
- Commercial septic tank cleaners or other performance additives

### **DON'T:**

- *Dig* up the yard without knowing the exact location of system
- Landscape or place permanent structures over system components
- *Drive* or park over any component of the septic system
- *Enter* underground septic tank- call a professional
- Allow open access ports to system – block all access to tank opening immediately
- *Install* a garbage grinder

### **DO:**

- Keep lint filters clean in washing machines
- Use liquid detergents rather than powder
- Fix leaky plumbing fixtures immediately
- Pump system (yearly in multi-family units) every 2-3 years
- Keep records of septic system maintenance
- Conserve water consumption by reducing daily water use
- Be alert to signs of a failing or clogged system