

# It's Septic Awareness Week *USE YOUR SEPTIC SENSE!*

September 16—20, 2019

## IN YOUR HOME

### DO

- Compost kitchen wastes instead of using a garburator.
- Scrape dishes into the garbage instead of the sink.
- Use a drain catcher to stop food bits from going down the drain.
- Install water-saving faucets, toilets and shower heads.
- Take shorter showers.
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only with full loads, and select the proper load size for your machine.
- Wash only one or two loads of laundry a day, to spread out the load on your system.
- Ensure that water effluent from water softener, reverse osmosis systems, and other clean wastewater is diverted away from septic systems.

### DON'T

- Do not put cigarette butts, paper towels, sanitary tampons, condoms, disposable diapers, plastics or similar non-biodegradable materials into your septic system.
- Avoid washing food scraps, coffee grinds, and other food items down the drain.
- Never put oil gasoline, paint thinners, solvents, pesticides, pharmaceuticals or other toxic chemicals down the drain.

## MAINTENANCE

### DO

- Have a ROWP maintenance provider confirm or develop a maintenance plan specific to your septic system that includes at minimum an annual assessment. This maintenance plan should include as constructed drawings.
- Have your tank pumped out as recommended by your Maintenance Provider.
- Have your effluent filter cleaned as needed, approximately every 6 months.
- Remove sludge in spring rather than fall to avoid loading the tank with undigested solids during cold months.
- Keep your septic tank cover accessible for inspections and pumping. Install risers if necessary and always keep the tank lid secure.
- Package treatment plants are maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications.

### DON'T

- Do not enter or access a septic tank.
- Do not use septic tank additives.
- Do not disinfect, scrub and wash the tank.

## IN YOUR YARD

### DO

- Know the location of your septic tank or package treatment plant and soils treatment components.
- Be aware there are required setbacks for the installation of underground sprinklers in the vicinity of septic systems.
- Watch for any ground settlement that might direct water onto the soils treatment components.
- Keep the area around the septic tank and dispersal area grassed to promote evaporation and avoid erosion.

### DON'T

- Do not allow vehicles to drive over, or park on, any septic system components.
- Do not use a septic field as pens or pastures for animals.
- Do not plant any trees or shrubs on or near the bed or tanks; their roots can clog pipes.
- Do not drain downspouts, sump pumps, etc. into the septic system.
- Do not alter drainage features without consideration for impacts to the dispersal field.
- Do not build over any septic or soils component or cover it with a hard surface such as asphalt, brick or patio stones.
- Do not excessively water the lawn over the soils treatment component area.



