



MACK INDUSTRIES

"Quality and Service Since 1932"



Septic System Do's and Don'ts

Volume 17

The On-Site Sewage Treatment System or Septic System is often out of site, out of mind. If the system is not properly maintained, problems can arise and systems can fail. Observing the following guidelines can help to keep your system running properly and may prevent costly repairs.

Septic System Do's:

1. Educate your family to the proper use of the system.
2. Set-up and adhere to a sound system of inspection and cleaning.
3. Keep accurate records about the location and cleaning of your system.
4. Practice water conservation. The more wastewater you produce, the more wastewater your system must treat and dispose. *Example: low flow showerheads, leaky faucets, reduce toilet reservoir volume or flow, take short showers/don't fill bathtub, wash only full loads of dishes and laundry. Avoid washing several loads of laundry or dishwasher usage in one day.*
5. Keep all runoff away from your system. Water from roofs and driveways should be diverted away from septic and drain field area.
6. Protect your system from damage. Keep vehicles and livestock off your drain field. The pressure can compact the soil or damage the pipes. Before you dig for any reason, check the location of your system and drain field.
7. Landscape your system properly. Don't plant trees or shrubs or place impermeable materials such as concrete or plastic over or near the system.
8. Use cleaning chemicals in moderation and only according to manufacturer's directions.
9. The garbage disposal should be used in moderation. *The use of the garbage disposal will increase the amount of solids entering the septic tank and result in the need for more frequent pumping.*
10. Use boiling water or drain snake rather than caustic drain cleaners to remove clogs.

Why Choose MACK INDUSTRIES?

- Locally Owned and Operated.
- Experienced Technicians.
- Provide maintenance and repairs, not just inspections.
- Over 50 years of experience installing and designing Sewage Treatment Systems.
- Norweco and Jet Distributors.

Septic System Don'ts:

1. Enter a septic tank. Poisonous gases or lack of oxygen can be fatal.
2. Allow excess amounts of fat, grease or cooking oil to enter the system. *These can congeal causing obstructions.*
3. Flush coarse organic matter such as paper towels, disposable diapers, condoms, sanitary pads or tampons, cigarette butts, kitty liter and coffee grounds. These items will overload the tank with sludge and floatable forcing more frequent pumping. *Many of these items can damage the aerator.*
4. Use chemical compounds to correct a malfunctioning system. These include degreasing agents, caustic chemicals, solvents and bacterial digestion enhancers such as enzymes or yeast. *They can be dangerous to the bacteria.*
5. Dispose of automotive oil, gasoline or any motor fuels or coolants in any quantity into the system.
6. Allow pesticides, disinfectants, acids medicines, paint, paint thinners, grease or solvents into the system.
7. Discharge salt brine backwash water/solution from a water softener into the system.
8. Use Tide laundry detergent, any powder detergent, liquid fabric softeners (or liquid detergent containing fabric softeners and large quantities of bleach).

Warning signs of system failure:

While proper use, inspections, and maintenance should prevent most septic tank problems, it is still important to be aware of changes in your system and to act immediately if you suspect a system failure. Here are some signs:

- Surfacing or wet spots in the drain field area.
- Plumbing or septic tank backups or gurgling sounds in the piping.
- Sewage odors in house or yard. Note: that the house plumbing vent on the roof will emit sewage odors and this is normal.
- Water tests showing the presence of bacteria in well water.



Remember, Prevention is the best form of defense!