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## Tips for Maintaining Septic System

### Properly Dispose of Waste

Whether you flush it down the toilet, grind it in the garbage disposal, or pour it down the sink, shower, or bath, everything that goes down your drains ends up in your septic system. What goes down the drain affects how well your septic system works.

#### Toilets are not trash cans!

Your septic system is not a trash can. An easy rule of thumb: Do not flush anything besides human waste and toilet paper.

NEVER FLUSH:	
• <b>Cooking Grease or Oil</b>	• <b>Flushable Wipes</b>
• <b>Photographic Solutions</b>	• <b>Feminine Hygiene Products</b>
• <b>Dental Floss</b>	• <b>Condoms</b>
• <b>Cigarette Butts</b>	• <b>Diapers</b>
• <b>Coffee Grounds</b>	• <b>Cat Litter</b>
• <b>Paper Towels</b>	• <b>Pharmaceuticals</b>
• <b>Household Chemicals (Ex. Gasoline, Oil, Pesticides, Antifreeze, and paint or paint thinners)</b>	

### Think at the sink!

Your septic system contains a collection of living organisms that digest and treat household waste. Pouring toxins down your drain can kill these organisms and harm your septic system. Whether you are at the kitchen sink, bathtub, or utility sink:

- **Avoid chemical drain openers** for a clogged drain. Instead, use boiling water or a drain snake.
- **Never pour cooking oil or grease** down the drain.
- **Never pour oil-based paints, solvents, or large volumes of toxic cleaners down the drain.** Even latex paint waste should be minimized.
- **Eliminate or limit the use of a garbage disposal.** This will significantly reduce the amount of fats, grease, and solids that enter your septic tank and ultimately clog its drainfield.

### Use Water Efficiently

The average indoor water use in a typical single-family home is nearly 70 gallons per individual, per day. Just a single leaky or running toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons of water per day. All of the water a household sends down its pipes winds up in its septic system. The more water a household conserves, the less water enters the septic system. Efficient water use improves the operation of a septic system and reduces the risk of failure.

### Routine Maintenance

Recommend pumping or inspecting every 5 years to protect the environment and reduce the economic risk of a failed system.

Information taken from : <https://www.epa.gov/septic/how-care-your-septic-system#properly>

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