

## Sewage Management Program: Do's & Don'ts

### Inside the House

- Dispose of cooled cooking fats, oils and grease in regular garbage (not down drain).
- Have a copy of permit and sketch for septic system from Chester County Health Department, as well as service records.
- Reduce overall water usage to avoid flooding system.
- Avoid doing all laundry on one day, keep spaced out through week.
- Flush only human waste and toilet paper down toilet.
- Identify and fix leaky faucets and fixtures.
- Install low-flow appliances (toilets, dish washer, shower, washing machine etc.) when possible.

### Treatment Tank

- Pump tank at least once every three years
- Determine location of tank, cleanouts and lid.
- Unearth all buried lids and add risers (vertical piping) if necessary for accessibility.
- Annually inspect system components and check for breaks or cracks
- If possible, install effluent filter to prevent solid buildup.
- Keep detailed records of design; construction; repair; pumping and inspection.
- Call professionals if you are having system problems or malfunctions.

### Absorption Field

- Keep field covered with grass and cut and maintained to prevent erosion.
- Annually inspect disposal field appearance for settlement or ponding
- Prevent surface water from flowing into disposal field by keeping yard graded (sloped) away from system.
- Repair any broken cleanouts or piping in/ around disposal field.
- Add risers if necessary for accessibility.
- Uncover all cleanouts to field and keep accessible at surface and not buried.
- Locate disposal field and maintain documents with drawings.

- Don't use garbage disposal for food in sink- use drain strainer to prevent food from going down the drain.
- Don't let water run unnecessarily.
- Don't flush household chemicals (cleaning products, paints or pharmaceuticals) down drain or toilet.
- Don't flush paper towels, napkins, feminine products, "flushable" wipes, dental floss, cat litter etc. down drain or toilet.

- Don't ever enter the treatment tank.
- Don't put any additives/ cleaners to the tank- it may cause clogging.
- Don't dispose of water from hot tubs or pools into tank- chlorine can kill important biology.
- Don't keep stormwater downspouts pointed towards system.

- Don't allow trees and other woody plants to grown on disposal field -deep roots constrict piping.
- Don't allow vehicles to drive or park on disposal field- preventing soil compaction and broken pipes.
- Don't water yard where disposal field is located.