

GENERAL TIPS ABOUT LIVING ON A SEPTIC SYSTEM:

DO conserve water – using too much water or leaky faucets and toilets can overload your system and lead to more maintenance costs and possible failure.

DON'T dump cooking oil or grease down the drain. Collect it in a can and dispose of it in the garbage.

DO divert roof drains, basement sump drains and other rainwater or surface water away from your drainfield. Flooding your drainfield can shorten its life and cause potential malfunction of your septic system.

DON'T use caustic drain openers for a clogged drain. Instead, use boiling water or a drain snake to open clogs.

DO use moderation with commercial household cleaners and detergents. Baking soda or other mild cleaners often do the job as well and cheaper than common commercial brands.

DON'T use your septic system like a garbage can. Do not put grease, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, paper towels, plastics, cat litter, latex paint, pesticides, or other hazardous chemicals down the drain.

DO plant grass or other shallow-rooted plants over and near the septic system. Roots from trees or shrubs can clog and damage your drainfield.

DON'T drive or park over any part of your septic system. This can compact the soil and crush your system's components.

For more information contact the Deschutes County Environmental Health Division at 541-388-6575. Additional information is also available on the web at <http://www.co.deschutes.or.us/cdd/>.

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