

Septic System Dos and Don'ts

Do learn the location of your septic tank and drainfield. Keep a sketch of it handy with your maintenance record for service visits.

Do have your septic system inspected annually.

Do have your septic tank pumped out regularly by a licensed contractor.

Do keep your septic tank cover accessible for inspections and pumpings. Install risers if necessary.

Do call a professional whenever you experience problems with your system.

Do keep a detailed record of repairs, pumpings, inspections, permits issued, and other maintenance activities.

Do conserve water to avoid overloading the system. Be sure to repair any leaky faucets or toilets.

Do divert other sources of water, like roof drains, house footing drains, and sump pumps, away from the septic system. Excessive water keeps the soil in the drainfield from naturally cleansing the wastewater.

Do maintain a current service and maintenance contract if your system is equipped with a pre-treatment or advance treatment unit.

Don't go down into a septic tank. Toxic gases are produced by the natural treatment processes in septic tanks and can kill in minutes.

Don't allow anyone to drive or park over any part of the system.

Don't plant anything over or near the drainfield except native grasses. Roots from nearby trees or shrubs may clog and damage the drain lines.

Don't dig in your drainfield or build anything over it, and don't cover the drainfield with a hard surface such as concrete or asphalt. The area should only have a grass cover. The grass will not only prevent erosion, but will help remove excess water.

Don't make or allow repairs to your septic system without obtaining the required health department permit. Use professional licensed septic contractor when needed.

Don't use your toilet as a trash can or poison your septic system and the groundwater by pouring harmful chemicals and cleansers down the drain.

Do Not Flush or Put Down the Drain:

Coffee grounds, dental floss, disposable diapers, kitty litter, sanitary napkins, tampons, cigarette butts, condoms, fat, grease, oil, paper towels, paints, varnishes, thinners, photographic solutions, and pesticides.

For additional information and a list of licensed contractors in Gilpin County please contact Public and Environmental Health Services at 303-582-5803.