

How to Conserve the Septic System

SHORT VERSION

No FATS, GREASE, solid foods, chemicals, or paper products down any drain or toilet! Reduce the volume of water entering the system!

LONG (but so helpful) VERSION

The sewage disposal system serving Starwood sanitizes waste through a natural, organic process. Because of this, every homeowner needs to know about these important DO's and DON'Ts, and should explain their importance to their children and to anyone who rents their home. The two most important factors affecting the system's operation are:

- Placing only easily biodegradable substances into the system. 2. Reducing the volume of water processed by the system.

What does this mean for you? Here's how we all can help:

In the Kitchen

- Put NO animal fats, grease, or oils down the drain. Anything that congeals when cold, like meat drippings or gravy, should be drained into cans or plastic containers and discarded. This is THE most important thing to do. (Imagine trying to strain particles through a strainer coated with, say, Crisco...) Likewise, put NO harsh chemicals (Drano or household chemicals, paint, pesticides, herbicides, or automobile fluids, etc.) down any drain. These substances interfere with or actually prevent the biodegrading process that purifies the waste. (Most kitchen detergents are biodegradable.)
- Put NO fruit and vegetable parings, scraps from plates, or other food solids in the disposal. Either compost it (for really beautiful gardens!), or discard it in the trash. The septic system is not designed to process food solids, no matter how finely ground.
- Use the dishwasher only when full, or else as seldom as practical. Scrape dishes thoroughly before placing them in the dishwasher. Don't leave water from the faucet running constantly while doing a task such as rinsing vegetables; turn it on and off as needed.

In the Bathroom

- Deposit only human waste and bath tissue for flushing. Discard items such as baby wipes, hair, all feminine products, facial tissues, paper towels, and any other paper products in the wastebasket or other receptacle; don't flush them.
- Install low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators and low-volume flush toilets.
- Flush as seldom as possible. As our system is directly affected by volume, the fewer gallons of water processed, the better the system works.

- Use common-sense measures to minimize water use while bathing or showering. For example, turn off water while applying and lathering shampoo, turn it back on when ready to rinse, and so on. Remove hair from drains after bathing.

In the Laundry

- Wait until you have a full load to wash and wash in the middle of the day. When needed, replace appliance with E star models.
- Adjust the water level as appropriate to the load size.

In General

- Immediately repair any leaking or faulty plumbing fixtures. This includes valves in sinks, toilets, faucets, or exterior hose bibs. Replace leaky hoses.