



Township of
Leeds and the
Thousand Islands

Steps I can take to ensure my Septic System functions properly

A sewage system that has been properly installed should, with proper care and maintenance, provide many years of service. There are some things to be aware of to help the system function properly.

Avoid putting the following into a septic system

- Fats, oils and grease
- Gasoline, antifreeze
- Varnishes, paints and solvents
- Caustic drain and harsh cleaners
- Photographic solutions, bleach, pesticides
- Nail polish remover
- Cat box litter
- Tampons, sanitary napkins, diapers, paper towels, condoms
- Plastics
- Coffee grounds, egg shells and other kitchen waste

Avoid directing the following water into a septic system

- roof drains
- sump water
- Surface water
- inground, onground or above ground pool water

Avoid discharge water unless system is designed for it

Discharge water from softeners and iron filters should not be directed into the sewage system unless the system has been designed to accept such discharges.

Keep water usage to a minimum

Water usage in the home should be kept to a minimum. Excessive use, such as doing numerous loads of laundry in one day, could flush solids from the treatment unit (septic tank) into the leaching bed.

No need for starters, bacterial feeds or cleaners

There should be no need to use "starters", "bacterial feeds" or "cleaners".

Conduct regular inspections

The treatment unit should be inspected at regular intervals and pumped out whenever sludge and scum occupy 1/3 of the working capacity of the tank. Septic tanks contain deadly gases and should only be inspected by firms specializing in this work.

Avoid vehicular traffic

Vehicular traffic (including snowmobiles) should not be allowed over the tank and leaching bed.

Encourage grass and avoid shrubs, flowerers, gardens and trees in the leaching area

The area over a leaching bed should have a good cover of grass allowing for adequate sunlight and ventilation to be maintained. Avoid planting shrubs, flowers, gardens and trees over this area.