

## **SEPTIC SYSTEM TIPS FOR INSIDE**

**Conserve water to extend the life and increase the efficiency of your septic system. Fix leaks and drips. If you replace old fixtures, install new “low flow” types.**

**Do not overload the system – this is the primary cause of system failures. Early morning and bedtime are peak use times in the bathroom. Run dishwashers and washing machines at other times of the day. Don’t do the family laundry in one day.**

**NEVER empty RV waste into your septic system.**

**Avoid washing food scraps, coffee grounds, and other food items down the drain. The use of a garbage disposal can increase the amount of solids in the tank up to 50 percent. Increasing the load of solids into the tank decreases the capacity and shortens the interval between pumpings.**

**Do not pour fats and cooking oils down the drain. They can build up and clog the septic tank pipes.**

**Put paper towels, tissue, plastics, cigarette butts, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons, and other material in a trash can, not the toilet. Never flush baby wipes, wet wipes, cleaning pads, dental floss, Q-tips, cotton balls, or pills down the toilet.**

**Household cleaners, such as bleach, disinfectants, and drain and toilet bowl cleaners should be used in moderation and only in accordance with product labels. Overuse of these products can harm your system.**

**Do not add “start enzymes” or “yeast” to your system. Additives do not improve the performance of your system; there are always plenty of natural bacteria available to do the job. In fact, additives can damage your system by breaking up the sludge and scum layers, causing solids to flush out the tank and clog the job absorption field.**

**Modern appliances may affect your septic system, such as a hot tub/whirlpool or a water softener. If using a water softener, discharge it as infrequently as possible to reduce water use. Also, adjust the settings to reduce the amount of water needed for backwashing and regeneration.**