

Your septic system ...

... Your lake

Septic systems are the number one polluter of your lake and cost tens of thousands of dollars to replace. Operating it properly minimizes the damage it does to your lake, and protects your investment, your lake and your family's health.

two basic rules for living with a septic system:

#1

Do not use anything in your system that will harm the good bacteria.

#2

Minimize and spread out your water usage.

septic system dos and don'ts

do

▶ Conserve water to avoid overloading the system.

- ▶ Have your tank inspected and pumped every 3 to 5 years.
- ▶ Keep the septic area clear of trees and other large deep rooting vegetation.
- ▶ Use soaps and detergents that clearly state on the package—*No phosphates or bleaches*.
- ▶ Use vinegar or lemon juice as a rinse aid in your dishwasher.
- ▶ Install an effluent filter in your septic tank, to reduce the amount of solids entering the leaching bed and help prevent clogging.

don't

▶ Use any product that harms the good bacteria that your system thrives on, including:

- Bleach
 - Supermarket dishwasher detergents
 - Antibacterial soaps
 - Rinse aids for your dishwasher
 - Cream cleansers—most contain bleach
 - Drain cleaners
 - Automatic toilet bowl cleaners—blue is not green!
- ▶ Do more than one load of laundry or dishes per day.
 - ▶ Put chemicals or contaminants down the drain as these will kill the beneficial bacteria necessary for your system to function.
 - ▶ Ignore odours, sogginess around the septic area, or backed up drains. These can all be signs of serious septic trouble.
 - ▶ Flush feminine hygiene products.