

Don't Sink It!!!

(Kitchen (Sinks) on onsite systems)

NO GREASE

FATS
BUTTER
WAX
CHEESE
HEAVY CREAM

NO LIQUID WASTES

PESTICIDES
DRAIN CLEANERS
HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS
(unless specified safe for onsite)
PAINTS
PAINT THINNERS
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOLUTIONS
SOLVENTS (e.g. hobbies)
OILS

OTHER NO'S FOR THE SINK

COFFEE GROUNDS
EXCESS FOOD WASTE
NO FLUSH LIST

Provided by:

NPS 319 Funding

NCDENR - DEH-OSWS

Don't Flush It!!!

(Only toilet tissue & human waste)

NO PLASTICS/LATEX

WRAPPERS
FEMININE PRODUCT COVERS
LIDS/LINERS/RINGS
CONDOMS
BANDAIDS

NO PAPER MATERIALS

(Other than toilet paper)
PAPER TOWELS/TOWELETTES
FACIAL TISSUES
NAPKINS
GAUZE
DENTAL FLOSS
MATCHES
FEMININE PRODUCTS & PAPER COVERS

OTHER NO FLUSH

COFFEE GROUNDS
CIGARETTES
LEFT OVER/EXPIRED MEDICINES
HAIR CLIPPINGS
KITTY LITTER/PET WASTES
GREASE/OILS/SOLVENTS
MEDICINES
KITCHEN SINK LIST

Provided by:

NPS 319 Program

NCDENR - DEH-OSWS

(OVER)

Preventing NPS pollution from septic tank systems

- * **Pump your septic tank regularly** to ensure optimum performance of your system. Failure to pump the tank can cause clogging of the drainfield and subsequent failure of the system. Failing systems contribute to runoff of sewage which contaminates surface water. Use the chart below to estimate the years for pumping your system.

Number of Years for Pumping your System					
Tank Size (gallons)	Number of people using the septic tank system				
	1	2	4	6	8
900	11	5	2	1	1
1000	12	6	3	2	1
1250	16	8	3	2	1
1500	19	9	4	3	2

- * **Properly use your system:** Disposal of toxic substances in the system can contribute to NPS pollution other than nutrients and pathogens that will degrade ground and surface water quality. Do not throw or dispose in your system chemical waste such as engine oil, gasoline, pesticides, paints, solvents, and photographic chemicals. Contact your local landfill or toxic waste recycling site to dispose of these chemicals.

- * **Do not use additives in your septic tank:** Additives are sold that claim to help the septic tank solids to prevent clogging. In reality, additives do not prevent system failure and rather, can be harmful to bacteria in the septic tank and in the drainfield, Additives that contain the following chemicals contribute to groundwater pollution.

Acrolein, acrylonitrile, benzene, benzidine, carbon tetrachloride, halogenated benzenes, methylene chloride, naphthalene, pentachlorophenol, toluene, trichloroethylene, trichloroethane, trichlorophenol.

- * **Protect your drainfield:** It is important to ensure long life of the drainfield. If the system fails, sewage will surface in the drainfield and can runoff to nearby streams contributing to NPS pollution and posing a health hazard. Keep large trees and shrubs away from the field to prevent any root clogging or crushing the drainfield pipes. Do not drive or pave over the drainfield! The weight of vehicles can crush the pipes of the drainfield.

- * **Protect your septic tank:** Keep as many solids out of your septic tank as possible. This ensures optimum performance of the tank and maximizes pumping time. The following items can contribute to a faster solids build up in your tank.

Use of a garbage disposal, coffee grounds, grease and cooking oils, sanitary napkins, tampons, disposable diapers, cigarettes, facial tissue or other solid or paper wastes, cat box litter, mud, and grit from cleaning automobile or machine parts.

- * **Reduce the amount of water you dispose in your system:** By reducing the water usage, less water flows into the drainfield. Thus, the drainfield has more time to recover between effluent loads. Save water by turning off the water while doing something that does not require a constant flow of water. Take short showers e.g. less than 5 to 10 minutes. Use low flow fixtures in sinks, toilets, and showers. Run dishwashers and washing machines only with full loads. Repair leaky faucets. Do not empty into the septic tank roof drains, basement sump pumps, and foundation drains.

Contact your local health department if you have questions and/or to report failing systems!