

## Don't Flush List Guidance

**Check the labels of household cleaners and toilet paper to see if they are labeled septic safe.**

Recommended Prohibitions in an On-Site System

**Inert Materials:** Plastic, Rubber, Scouring Pads, Dental Floss, Cigarette Filters, Bandages, Hair, Mop Strings, Lint, Rags, Cloth and Towels do not degrade in an on-site treatment system. Inert Materials will build up solids, and lead to system malfunction, clogging or increased pump out frequency.

**Paper Products:** Disposable Diapers, Paper Towels, Baby Wipes, Facial Tissues, Moist Toilet Paper are not designed to dissolve in an onsite treatment system. Excessive amounts of toilet tissue will also not decompose. All can lead to system malfunction, back-up or increased pump out frequency.

**Food Wastes:** Do not put Animal Fats, Grease, Coffee Grounds, Citrus Rinds, or Egg Shells down the sink. Garbage disposal use should be limited to waste that cannot be scooped out and thrown in the trash. Spoiled Dairy Products and Yeasts from home Brewery or Baking may cause excessive growth of microbes that do not degrade sewage.

**Medicinals:** Do not flush Baby Wipes, Lotioned, Scented or Quilted Toilet tissue, Female Sanitary Products, Cotton Balls or Swabs, Condoms or expired Medicines/Antibiotics. Septic Tank additives generally do more harm than good. Automatic Disinfection Tablets (blue, clear or otherwise) will kill the organisms needed to consume waste.

**Chemicals & Toxins:** Paint, Paint Thinner, Solvents, Volatile Substances, Drain Cleaners, Automotive Fluids, Fuels, Pesticides, Herbicides, Fertilizers, Metals, Disinfectants, Sanitizers, Bleach, Mop Water, Excessive use of Household chemicals, and Backwash from Water Softener regeneration kill the microbes necessary for treatment.

**Labels on Household Cleaners:** “Danger” means the chemical will kill the bacteria so its use should be minimized or eliminated; “Warning” means limited use should have a minimal impact upon the system; “Caution” typically means limited use should have a minimal impact on the system.

**Laundry Practices:** On-site systems must process the water as it enters the system. Laundry should be spread out over the week, not all run at one time. Excessive use of Detergents, especially those containing bleach, can affect system performance. Liquid detergents are recommended over powders. Fabric Softener sheets are recommended over liquid softeners. Bleach should be used sparingly and at half the rate indicated on the container. Or use Borax as a laundry whitener and peroxide as a disinfectant instead of bleach.

**Clear Water Waste:** A/C Discharge lines, Floor Drains, Gutters, Whole House Water Treatment Systems and Sump Pumps can increase the flow to your treatment system. These flows can at least disrupt, if not destroy your treatment process.