

## Septic General Maintenance Information

- Septic tanks should be pumped regularly every **3 – 5 years or less**, although, frequency of pumping may increase depending on how heavily the system is used.
- Minimum distances are required to be maintained to the septic system. **Minimum 1.5m (5ft)** from any structure (house, deck, pool, shed, etc) to the septic *tank*. **Minimum 5m (16'-5")** from any structure to the septic *bed*.
- Septic beds must **not** be driven across (as this may compact the soil or crush the tiles, resulting in septic bed failure).
- Landscaping should be limited to areas around the septic tank only (ensure lids are accessible for pumping/maintenance).
- Trees or bushes should **not** be planted on or near the septic bed (the roots can damage and block the tiles, resulting in possible bed failure).
- Water usage should be monitored and used conservatively and should **never** be excessively discharged to a septic system.
- Loads of laundry should **not** be done excessively over short periods of time, but rather should be spread out throughout the course of the week as to not over load the capacity of the system.
- Appliances that generate waste water (such as water softeners), sump pumps or roof leaders must **not** be connected to the septic system. Kitchen garbage grinders also must **not** be connected. Pool or hot tub water must **not** be discharged to the septic system.
- The following items should **never** be added to a septic system: fats, oils, grease, gasoline, antifreeze, varnish, paint, solvents, harsh drain or toilet bowl cleaners, photography solutions, pesticides, nail polish remover, cat litter, tampons, sanitary napkins, diapers, paper towels, facial tissues, condoms, plastics, coffee grounds, egg shells, other kitchen wastes, cigarette filters, and any other similar types of waste materials.
- House-hold cleaners, disinfectants, and bleach may only be used in moderation, as they impede the treatment process (which may reduce the lifespan of the septic system). Ensure to read the labels of cleaning solutions to determine if the manufacturer recommends that it may be used in conjunction with a septic system – however, these items must still be used with caution.
- Grass growth must be maintained over the septic bed. Proper grading, which directs any surface water runoff away from the septic bed must be maintained. Sprinkler systems must **not** be installed in or over the septic bed area.

**Please note that all septic systems do have limitations as to their use and capacity. It is the responsibility of the owner of the septic system to ensure that it is operated and maintained in accordance with the Ontario Building Code and all other applicable laws.**

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\*\*\*This information is available in accessible formats upon request\*\*\*