

Septic Tank and ATU Do's and Maintenance

- Know the location of the septic tank and lateral field or sandfilter
- The septic tank should be inspected annually by an Illinois licensed septic pumper or service company.
- Pump the septic tank at least once every 3 to 5 years. Septic tanks that are not pumped will allow solids to enter the lateral field or sandfilter and will eventually clog the system.
- Fix leaky faucets and toilets quickly. Excess water will send solid particles into the septic system.
- Divert water from parking areas, downspouts, sump pumps, footing drains, etc. away from the septic system.

Garbage disposers are acceptable but large food particles are bad, larger septic tank or ATU is needed.

Septic Tank and ATU Don'ts

- **Do not flush any of the following in the septic system:**
 - **Coffee Grinds**
 - **Nut shells**
 - **Dental Floss**
 - **Kitty Litter**
 - **Female hygiene products of any kind**
 - **Cigarette butts**
 - **Sand**
 - **Gravel**
 - **Paints (even latex)**
 - **Gasoline**
 - **Paint thinners**
 - **Alcohol**
 - **Varnishes**
 - **Grease**
 - **Cooking Oil**
 - **Pesticides**
 - **Chemicals**
 - **Unused Medications**
 - **Photographic Chemicals**

Septic Tank and ATU Don'ts

- Do not plant trees anywhere near the lateral field or sandfilter. The roots will clog the pipes.
- Do not park cars, drive over septic system area, this reduces the oxygen levels in soil needed to breakdown wastewater.
- Avoid septic tank additives - the septic system has everything it needs
- Avoid large number of laundry loads in one day, spread them out over the week. Excess water will send solid particles into the septic system.
- Do not enter into the septic tank or ATU without proper safety equipment. This is in accordance with confined space laws. Sewer gas can be fatal.

