

Good Practices for Septic Longevity

DO:

Conserve water.

Clean vegetables in a pan of water rather than under running water. Water can then be reused to water plants.

Use filtering drain screens or plugs in the kitchen to catch food particles and in the shower to catch hair.

Use septic safe toilet paper, such as Cascades, Scott 1000, or Quilted Northern. Look for biodegradable and recycled content.

Only flush human waste and toilet paper down the toilet.

Use 'green' cleaning alternatives or at least septic safe cleaners or use vinegar and make your own! Many recipes for vinegar cleaners are online. Vinegar is always mentioned as septic safe. Use cleaning chemicals in moderation.

Wipe pots, pans, and dishes off into the garbage before washing.

Only use liquid laundry detergents in the washing machines; some laundry powder fillers can clog pipes.

Make sure all your cat scoopings go in the trash.

Make sure all your coffee grinds go in the trash.

Make sure our guests know of our current necessary septic system practices.

DON'T:

Don't put cooking oils, grease, or butter of any kind down the drain! This is first on most lists of what not to put down the drain. It disturbs the biological process.

Use automatic toilet bowl cleaners or deodorizers.

Discard medications or dental floss into the toilet.

Discard any cigarette butts, or poisons of any sort into the septic system.

Put paper towels or disposable personal wipes down the toilet even if they say septic safe. These add volume, clog pipes, and dissolve much too slowly.

References: Washington Dept. of Health, Jefferson county public Health, thecleverhomeowner.com, our facilities manager-Barb Gilger. Various internet cross-referencing.