

FACTS EVERY SEPTIC SYSTEM OWNER SHOULD KNOW

Before Installing Your System

- Rope off the area of your system and protect it from vehicles.
- Caution your builder to avoid system area during home construction.
- Do not allow stripping of top soil or grading in the area of the system.
- Make sure your well is upslope from system and **at least** 100 feet away.
- Do not allow system installation or wet or frozen soil conditions. Soil must be **loose, dry, unsmeared and uncompacted**.
- Keep downspout and footer drains out of your septic system.
- Seed your system area as soon as weather permits.
- Divert all surface water from system area.

Conserve Water

- Water conservation prolongs your system life, saves you money and need **not** be a personal inconvenience.
- Install low flow showerheads, faucet aerators and install toilet bottle kits or tank displacement devices (if new construction, purchase low flow commodes). These devices can save a family of four over 100 gallons per day. Cost for these devices is only about \$20-\$70 and will save \$100-\$300 each year. See your local plumbing supplier and most major department stores.
- Purchase a front loading washer, they use 1/3 less water than top loaders.
- Take showers, they use less water than baths.
- Promptly repair leaky faucets.
- Use the clothes washer and dishwasher only when you have full loads.
- Contact your local DEP office for more information.

Pump Your Septic Tank

- Septic tanks should be pumped regularly (at least every 2-3 years)
- Tank pumping helps prevent more expensive system problems. Waiting for evidence of system problems (spongy lawn or sluggish toilet) may be too late for pumping to help.
- Pump your tank through the large central manhole, not the small baffle opening.
- Be sure tank pumper agitates tank contents before pumping. Solids and floating scum must be mixed before removal.
- Carefully mark the location of your septic tank.
- Sewage grinders and garbage disposals increase solids build-up in your tank. More frequent pumping should occur.
- **NEVER EMPTY A SEPTIC TANK.**
- Information on septic system maintenance can be obtained from the local DEP office.

Helpful Hints

- Place a copy of your sewage permit and yellow application in a safe place. This information will be important for future use.
- No septic tank additives have been proven beneficial for septic tank operation. Some may even be harmful. Regular tank pumping is the best advice to prolong your system's life.
- Before repairing or replacing your system (even a new septic tank), a new sewage permit from the municipal sewage enforcement officer will be needed.

For help or information, call your municipal Sewage Enforcement Officer or the local DEP office.