

Caring for Our Community Septic System

Guidelines for Responsible Use and Long-Term Protection

A well-maintained septic system is essential to the health and well-being of our community. Proper care extends the system's lifespan, safeguards our environment, and prevents costly repairs or emergencies. By following these guidelines and adopting best practices, we can ensure our new septic system serves us reliably for many years to come.

Items That Should NEVER Be Flushed or Drained

To keep our septic system running smoothly, it's crucial to avoid flushing or draining certain items, as they do not break down in the tank, can cause clogs, or may kill beneficial bacteria. Here's an itemized list:

- Diapers (disposable or cloth)
- Paper towels
- Condoms
- Feminine hygiene products (tampons, pads, sanitary wipes)
- Baby wipes and "flushable" wipes (these do not break down well)
- Cotton balls, swabs, or pads
- Dental floss
- Bandages
- Disposable gloves
- Facial tissues
- Cat litter (even "flushable" types)
- Q-tips
- Plastic items of any kind
- Rags, towels, washcloths, or clothing
- Food scraps, grease, oils, or fats
- Coffee grounds, eggshells, or nutshells
- Paints, solvents, or chemicals
- Medications (pills, liquids, creams)
- Cigarette butts
- Hair (from shaving or brushing)
- Paper other than toilet paper (such as napkins, receipts, wrappers)
- Household cleaning wipes
- Bleach or harsh chemical cleaners (use septic-safe alternatives instead)
- Pesticides, herbicides, or automotive fluids
- Expired or leftover pharmaceuticals

Only human waste and septic-safe toilet paper should be flushed. Everything else should go into the trash, compost, or appropriate disposal method.

Conclusion

Our septic system is a shared responsibility. By respecting these care instructions—especially never flushing prohibited items—we help maintain our community's health, property values, and environment. Thoughtful daily choices and routine maintenance will keep our system working efficiently for decades to come. Thank you for doing your part to protect our home!