

How Can YOU Maintain a Healthy Septic System?

Healthy septic systems are critical for the ongoing health of Horseshoe Lake, Mirror Lakes, and all of the lakes, rivers, and wetlands of Haliburton County.

The DO's and DO NOT's for a lasting, healthy septic system

DO: Treat your Septic System with respect

- Familiarize yourself of your Septic System
- Keep records of pump outs, maintenance etc.
- Pump out on a REGULAR basis
- Create a good vegetation buffer between your septic and your lake
- Comply with the 2022 Septic Inspection Report, fix any issues ASAP



DO: Use liquid, phosphate free, laundry and dish detergent that are marked, safe for septic. Powder detergent uses clay as a carrier and will build up in the septic tank and potentially plug disposal field.

DO: Take steps to reduce water usage by avoiding overly long showers and baths by using water saving shower heads and get all leaky faucets fixed. This avoids flooding the septic tank and then the field.

DO: Use the washing machine and dishwasher judiciously by washing clothes or dishes only when the machine is full. Each top load laundry load can use up to 47 gallons of water. Staggering the loads, instead of 7 loads all in one day will avoid potential problems with over capacity.

DO: Use vinegar or lemon juice as a rinse in the dishwasher. Store bought rinses will breakdown the bacteria which are needed in a healthy septic system.

DO NOT: Put grease and cooking oils into the kitchen drain. Oils and grease tend to solidify and harden in the pipes and clog the drain field after a while. Cool it, scrape it and throw it in the garbage or green bin.

DO NOT: Use harsh cleaners when trying to clear a clogged drain. These cleaners contain ingredients that can kill the beneficial bacteria in the system that otherwise help in processing and dissolving the solid waste in the system. To clear a blocked drain, use a specially designed snake pipe or boiling water.

DO NOT: Flush non-biodegradable items such as diapers, cigarette butts, paper towels, tampons or feminine napkins, nor anti-bacterial soaps and bleaches down the toilet.

DO NOT: Plant deep rooted or water-loving trees and shrubs too close to the leaching/disposal field bed. The roots of these trees and shrubs will grow long and strong and can penetrate the pipes.

If you have not, would not, or could not eat it, DO NOT put it in the septic system!

Your septic system contains a collection of living organisms that digest and treat house-hold waste. Understanding and observing the septic system do's and do not's above will help your healthy septic system work efficiently, the way it was meant to, for a long time!