



SHIELDS SEPTIC TANK SERVICE, INC.
PO BOX 324
LA PINE, OR 97739

CALL OR TEXT: 541-815-0040

Care & Maintenance of Your Septic System

Never put chemicals, microbes, bacteria culture, or enzymes in your tank. These and other additives are unnecessary and can be harmful to your system. Do not dump RV tanks into your system.

Frequently check for leaking faucets and running toilets, and repair them before they cause damage to your drainfield. Running toilets are the #1 cause of saturated drainfields.

Let as little grease as possible go into your system, and use toilet paper sparingly. Go easy with household cleaning supplies such as bleach, ammonia, chlorine, chlorides, or anything caustic, such as caustic soda and products used to unclog drains. Anti-bacterial soaps and automatic toilet bowl cleaners should not be used, as they will kill the bacterial action in your tank. Paint thinner and paints should not be put into the system. Other things that should never go into your system are: tampons, plastic tampon applicators, feminine pads, condoms, Q-tips, dental floss, cigarette butts, paper towels, floor-cleaning pads, and baby, hand, or personal wipes including "flushable" or "septic safe" wipes.

Try to always do full loads of laundry to avoid putting excessive amounts of water into the system. Use low-sudsing laundry soap (HE or High Efficiency), preferably liquid brands that have words like free/clear/gentle, without whiteners or fabric softeners. Use bleach (sparingly) to whiten your clothes. Use the warm/warm or hot/warm washer settings. The warmer the tank is, the better the bacteria works.

Make sure there will be no vehicle or other heavy traffic over your tank or drainfield. This includes livestock and motorcycles. Don't allow trees to grow in the drainfield area. With a standard system, have your tank pumped every three to five years, depending on the size of the family and the amount of use. Sand filter systems, low pressure systems, and systems with a low-profile tank need to be pumped more often. If your tank has a pump in it, you shouldn't go any longer than two years between pumpings. In some cases, having a 1500 gallon tank can extend the times between pumpings. Knowing your system and your level of use will help you better understand when service is needed. Plan landscaping to allow truck access to the tank, the closer the better.

Slow draining and gurgling in more than one drain are signs that the tank needs pumped. To check the tank yourself, uncover the lid if needed (usually at the inlet end, or in the center of the tank), remove the lid and measure the floating crust layer. If it is 8" to 10" thick, it's time to have your tank pumped. **DO NOT STIR UP THE CONTENTS OF THE TANK.** Doing so will send solids into your drainfield.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or text the above number Monday through Friday, from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

We're always glad to help!