

BURIED SAND FILTER - DOS & DON'TS

Wastewater Treatment

DO know the location of the system. Keep a

diagram with your maintenance records.

DO have your septic system inspected

annually. Keep detailed records of

inspections, pumpings, repairs and other

maintenance.

DO keep your system accessible for

inspections and pumping, yet protected from

unauthorized access.

DO call a professional whenever you

experience problems with your system, or if

there are any signs of failure.

DO conserve water to avoid overloading the

system. Repair any leaky faucets or toilets.

DON'T allow anyone to drive or park over any

part of the system.

DON'T plant anything over or near the

drainfield except grass. Grass prevents erosion

and helps remove excess water.

DON'T build over any part of your system or

cover with hard surfaces such as concrete or

asphalt.

DON'T make or allow any modifications to the

system without obtaining the proper Health

Department permit. Only use licensed septic

contractors when needed.

DON'T pour toxic chemicals or harsh cleaners

into any drains.

NEVER FLUSH coffee grinds, dental floss, disposable diapers, kitty litter,

sanitary napkins, tampons, cigarette butts, condoms, paper towels, fat, grease, oil

or any hazardous chemicals such as paints, varnishes, thinners, waste oil or pesticides

Chemicals

Illinois Law requires wastewater effluent which is discharged to the ground surface and leaves the property to be disinfected. Specific chlorine tablets, designed for effluent disinfection, must be used.

Approved calcium hypochlorite tablets are very reactive and quickly kill bacteria present in wastewater. Just as important, chlorine residual present after disinfection dissipates rapidly so that it will not damage the receiving environment.

Swimming pool chlorine tablets are not approved. Swimming pool tablets do not disinfect wastewater effluent effectively and they leave a chlorine residual behind which can be harmful to the environment.

Before handling calcium hypochlorite tablets, become thoroughly familiar with the products warning labels and instructions for use.

Be sure to exercise appropriate caution when inspecting a septic tank. Never allow anyone to inspect a septic tank alone. Toxic gases are produced by the natural treatment process in septic tanks and can kill in minutes. Even just looking in the septic tank can be dangerous.

Please contact the Fayette

County Health Department

with any additional questions.

(618) 283-1044

