



# Aerobic Treatment Units - DOs & DON'Ts

## Wastewater Treatment

### Chemicals

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| <b>DO</b> maintain a manufacturer approved service agreement. Your septic system requires maintenance every six months.                       | <b>DON'T</b> allow anyone to drive or park over any part of the system.                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>DO</b> keep detailed records of inspections, pumpings, repairs and other maintenance.                                                      | <b>DON'T</b> add hazardous chemicals such as paints, varnishes, thinners, waste oils, pesticides or medications to your system. Harsh chemicals will kill the beneficial bacteria that and pumping, yet protected from unauthorized access. |
| <b>DO</b> keep your system accessible for inspections and pumping, yet protected from unauthorized access.                                    | <b>DON'T</b> use a garbage disposal without being sure the system can handle the extra waste. Excess solids will affect the performance of the system.                                                                                      |
| <b>DO</b> become familiar with how your system operates and learn the signs of a malfunctioning system.                                       | <b>DON'T</b> make or allow any modifications to the system without consulting the Health Department. Only use licensed septic contractors when needed.                                                                                      |
| <b>DO</b> conserve water to avoid overloading the system. Stagger laundry loads throughout the week, and repair any leaky faucets or toilets. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

### **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.

**REMEMBER:** All aerobic treatment units must be monitored frequently and maintained a minimum of twice a year. Contractors performing maintenance must be licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

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.

Please contact the Fayette County Health Department with any additional questions.

(618) 283-1044

