



10 Do's & Don'ts for your Arizona Septic Tank



1. Conserving water isn't just good for the earth and your water bill, it is also helpful to your septic tank. Conserving water reduces the amount of waste water that must be treated and disposed.



2. As mentioned above, immediately repairing leaking faucets and toilets reduces the amount of unnecessary volume to the water waste in the home or business. Leaks never get better, they only worsen. It is best to fix them immediately.



3. Introduce only biodegradable wastes into the system. This means avoid flushing items like: feminine hygiene products, dental floss and paper towels.



4. Divert down-spouts, drains, gutters and other surface run-off water away from your leach area (the drain field, usually consisting of a network of perforated pipes in a trench; if these pipes get clogged, it will slow and sometimes stop the drainage process).



5. **This is the most important!** Your septic tank must be pumped on a regular basis. What does a regular basis mean? At least every 1 to 3 years, this varies by the numbers of individuals occupying the business or residence. If there are 4 or more people, the septic tank needs to be pumped every year. If you have heard that pumping hurts the system or disrupts the bacteria levels in the tank, don't worry, that information is incorrect.

It looks like this...



or this.



6. Do you know where your septic tank riser is? Make sure that it isn't under foliage or hard to get to; it needs to be accessible for tank inspections and pumping maintenance.



7. Does your residence or business have a garbage disposal? A garbage disposal can increase the level of solids in a tank by as much as 50%! Try to minimize the use of your garbage disposal; compost your garbage or put it in the trash. If you are using it beyond cleaning up after dishes, have your system pumped more often.



It is very easy to save all of your laundry for one day on the weekend, but try to avoid this. Doing 1 or 2 loads of laundry per day is much better compared to doing loads and loads. Also, check the labels on your soap and make sure that it is septic-safe and use liquid laundry soap, instead of the powder.



Very few of us enjoy washing dishes; it is easy to ask our dishwasher to do it for us, but that isn't the best choice for water consumption or your septic tank. Wait until your dishwasher is completely full with dirty dishes before you press the button and run it.



Is an exciting event happening at your home or business? When a large family gathering or company party is going to assemble in a home or building, it is a really good idea to have the septic tank pumped prior to the big event to ensure maximum capacity in the system.