



SEPTIC SYSTEM

do's and don'ts



MAINTAIN



INSPECT & PUMP the tank every 3 to 5 years



REDUCE WATER USE to not overload the tank

KEEP THESE OUT



FOOD WASTE from garbage disposals, including fats, oils, and grease, add non-dissolving solids to septic systems



Frequent use of strong **CLEANING PRODUCTS** will kill bacteria that break down solids



PAINTS & SOLVENTS can form a layer of sludge and cause blockages



UNUSED MEDICINE can disrupt the biological processes in the septic system, leading to system failures



NON-FLUSHABLES like wet wipes or paper towels can lead to blockages

IS YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM FAILING?

signs to look for

BAD ODORS

If your septic tank becomes backed up, odor-causing gases may come from drains, toilets, and the drain field

SLOW DRAINS

If your bathtubs, showers, and sinks begin to drain slower than usual, it may indicate that your septic tank needs pumping

STANDING WATER

Water pooling in the drain field or around the tank area are signs of a system failure that needs immediate attention

SEWAGE BACKUPS

If your septic tank goes too long without pumping, water and sewage from toilets, drains, and sinks will likely back up into your house

For more information visit
ossf.tamu.edu

Optional
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