

Septic System do's and don'ts

All septic systems are a living process. They rely on bacteria breakdown and digest the effluent, so a healthy septic has lots of healthy bacteria. If you use strong cleaning products such as the ones listed below, you will reduce or completely destroy the bacteria in your system. This will result in, (a) strong odours;

(b) untreated effluent pooling on the surface; (c) creating a possible health hazard for you and others; (d) shorten the life of any pump associated with your system; (e) in the case of a soakage system, complete shutdown of the soakage trench, causing effluent back-up to the house and very costly replacements.

Cleaners that should never be used in any type of septic system

(in order of most damaging to just harmful)

1. Nappy San
2. Milton Sterilising Solution
3. Any antibacterial solution; (ie Pine-O-Clean, dishwashing liquid, hand wash)
4. Exit Mould or anything else remotely similar
5. Ajax/Bon Ami powders or any chlorine based product
6. Any laundry powder, use pure liquid; (one you can see through – if you can't, it's a powder suspended liquid)
7. Toilet Blues; any brand or colour
8. Toilet Ducks or similar brands
9. Paints, thinners, petroleum products, etc
10. Sanitary napkins, condoms, plastic, cigarette butts etc.
11. Doing your washing all on the one day – Spread it out over the week.
12. Leaking taps – Too much water will dilute the bacteria
13. REMEMBER every drain and basin in your house is connected to your septic, so any product you put in around drains will end up in your septic system.
14. READ LABELS on cleaning products as any product that will harm you will harm the bacteria in your septic system.

Good cleaning products to use

1. Earth Choice laundry liquid and dishwashing liquid (available from supermarkets)
2. Down to Earth (any products in this range) – (available from supermarkets)
3. Bio Logic (any products in this range) – (available from supermarkets)
4. Ecozyme (any products in this range) – (available from supermarkets and hardware stores)
5. Vinegar – to clean lime scale – apply and leave for 10 minutes before you scrub
6. Pure soap flakes – dissolved in hot water and cup of washing soda for washing clothes.
7. Any product that states "Safe for Septics". NOTE: Read label as sometimes this is not the case.

Regular maintenance for system

1. Clean effluent field filter regular, at least once a month but may be more frequent for higher usage. Unscrew the large black filter and rinse under a tap and replace, make sure power is turned off to the system.
2. Treatment plants should be service every 3 months by an approved service agent, call us if you need to arrange this.
3. Septic system holding chamber should be pumped out at least every 3 years