

CARE & MAINTENANCE OF A SEWAGE SYSTEM

A sewage system, which has been properly installed, should, with proper care and maintenance, provide many years of service. There are, however, some things that you, the homeowner, should be aware of that will help the system function properly.

These are:

1. Do not allow roof drains or sump water to discharge to the treatment unit.
2. Do not allow surface water to drain towards the area of the leaching bed.
3. Water usage in the home should be kept to a minimum. Excessive use of water, such as doing numerous loads of laundry in one day, could flush solids from the treatment unit into the leaching bed. Note: Laundry waste may discharge to a sewage system provided it does not exceed 20% of the total daily design sanitary sewage flow.
4. Water softener and iron filter discharge may be directed to the sewage system provided the system has been designed to accept such discharges.
5. There should be no need to use “starters”, “bacterial feeds”, or “cleaners”.
6. The treatment unit should be inspected at regular intervals and pumped out whenever sludge and scum occupy 1/3 of the working capacity of the tank.
7. Inspection, servicing and maintenance of the treatment unit (other than a septic tank) and its related components must be carried out by a person who:
 - a) possesses a copy of the printed literature provided by the manufacturer regarding the operation, servicing and maintenance requirements of the unit, and
 - b) is authorized by the manufacturer to service and maintain that type of treatment unit.
8. Vehicular traffic (including snowmobiles) should not be allowed over the leaching bed.
9. The area over a leaching bed should have a good cover of grass but shrubs or trees should not be planted over the area. Good ventilation and adequate sunlight should be maintained in the area of the leaching bed.
10. Septic tanks when abandoned or taken out of service should be crushed or filled in with sand to prevent the collapse of earth over them.
11. Every sewage system shall be operated in accordance with,
 - a) the basis on which the construction and use of the sewage system was approved or required under the Building Code Act or predecessor legislation, as the case may be, and
 - b) the requirements of the manufacturer of the sewage system.