

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

BOARD OF HEALTH

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

Household Sewage Treatment System Tips

- Learn about your household sewage treatment system. Obtain and keep a sketch of the system with a detailed record of repairs, pumping, inspections, and other maintenance activities.
- Have your household sewage system inspected and maintained regularly.
- Keep your septic tank lid accessible for inspection and cleaning. Install risers if necessary.
- Call a registered sewage system contractor or your local health department if you experience problems or if there are signs of system failure.
- Always obtain required permits when making repairs to your system.
- Divert sources of water, such as roof drains, footer drains, and sump pumps away from the system. Excess water saturates the soil, which may lead to system failure. Keep a good vegetative cover over the system in order to help remove excess water and prevent erosion.
- Do not allow anyone to drive or park anything over any part of the septic system.
- Never dig or build anything over your system, including hard surfaces such as concrete or asphalt.
- Conserve water to avoid overloading the system. Promptly repair leaky faucets or toilets, and install water saving devices when possible.
- Do not use septic tank additives. These products can be harmful to the operation of your system.
- Eliminate or reduce the use of your garbage disposal. The additional waste produced by a garbage disposal will lead to extra maintenance requirements.
- Don't use your toilet or disposal as a trash can. Things that should never be disposed of in the system include coffee grounds, dental floss, disposable diapers, kitty litter, sanitary napkins, tampons, cigarette butts, condoms, fat, grease, oil, automotive fluids, and paper towels.
- Never pour chemicals or cleaners such as paints, varnishes, thinners, or pesticides down the drain/toilet. Harsh chemicals can kill beneficial bacteria that treat wastewater.
- Never climb down into a septic tank. The natural treatment process in septic tanks produces toxic gases.

For more information, contact 216-201-2020 or visit our website at www.ccbh.net

5550 Venture Drive ♦ Parma, Ohio 44130

Direct: 216-201-2000 ♦ Fax: 216-676-1311 ♦ TTY: 216-676-1313 ♦ www.ccbh.net

Terrence M. Allan, R.S., M.P.H. Health Commissioner