

# Lorain County General Health District



"For The Health of Us All"

## Aerobic System

### Dos and Don'ts...

- ✓ **Do** maintain the contract service arrangement offered by the manufacturer after the initial two-year period has expired. It is extremely important that aerobic systems receive regular maintenance.
- ✓ **Do** keep your system accessible for inspections and pumping, yet protected from unauthorized entrance. If access to your system is locked, make sure that your service contractor has a key.
- ✓ **Do** call a service professional whenever you experience problems with your system, whenever the alarm light is activated, or whenever there are any signs of system failure.
- ✓ **Do** keep detailed records about your aerobic system, including a map of where it is, and general information, such as model name, capacity, date installed, contract service agreement, records of service visits, and maintenance performed.
- ✓ **Do** conserve water to avoid overloading the system. Be sure to repair any leaky faucets or toilets.
- ✓ **Do** divert other sources of water, like roof drains, house footing drains, and sump pumps away from the aerobic system.
- ✓ **Do** become familiar with how your own particular system operates, and the way it looks, sounds, and smells when it is working correctly. This way, you may be able to identify problems before they become serious and alert your service provider to anything unusual.
- ✓ **Do** be sure to ask your service provider/ health department questions about how to know if your unit is malfunctioning.
- ✓ **Don't** use your toilet as a trash can or poison your treatment system and the groundwater by pouring harmful chemicals down the drain. Harsh chemicals can kill the beneficial bacteria that treat your wastewater.
- ✓ **Don't** use a garbage disposal without checking with your local health department to make sure that your aerobic system can accommodate this additional waste.
- ✓ **Don't** attempt to clean or perform maintenance on any sealed aerobic unit components.
- ✓ **Don't** allow anyone to drive over or park on any part of the system.
- ✓ **Don't** make or allow unauthorized repairs or changes to your aerobic system without obtaining the required health department permits.

### System Warning Signs

- Alarms or lights going off
- Any change in the system's normal operating sound
- Changes in the normal color of the wastewater aeration chamber.  
For example, if the color is gray-brown, rather than dark brown— this can be a sign of a problem
- Excessive solids, foam or scum
- Plumbing backups
- Sewage odors in the house or yard

### DO NOT FLUSH...


- coffee grounds
- disposable diaper
- sanitary napkins
- tampons
- cigarette butts
- condoms
- dental floss
- kitty litter
- gauze bandages
- fat, grease, or oil
- paper towels
- paints
- varnishes
- thinners
- waste oils
- photographic solutions
- pesticides

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