

BEST PRACTICES FOR SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Your home includes reliably carefully engineered equipment manufactured by Orenco Systems Inc for the collection and/or treatment of household wastewater.

When properly designed and installed, onsite wastewater treatment does a terrific job of decomposing household waste and recycling precious water resources. Our systems use little energy and frequently outperform municipal sewage treatment plants. The treated effluent is often returned harmlessly to the soil, where it receives final polishing and filtration for groundwater recharge. There's no degrading of our nation's rivers and oceans....which is so often the case with municipal sewage.

As with any engineered system, such as your car or your heat pump, your onsite wastewater system will work better and last longer if it is regularly maintained by a qualified service provider knowledgeable of all service lines, conduits and connections that get buried.

Your system will also work better and last longer if you learn what can go into it – and what can not. Little effort is required. Just read and practice the “do's and don'ts” that follow. Every member of your household should be familiar with these. And if you have guests who want to “help out in the kitchen” be sure to tell them too. With this preventative maintenance, along with periodic inspections, your onsite wastewater system should function for decades. And you'll save water and energy too!

There are a number of do's and don'ts that will help ensure a long life and minimal maintenance for your system. As a general rule, nothing should be disposed into any wastewater system that hasn't first been ingested, other than toilet tissue, mild detergents and wash water. Here are some additional guidelines.

VICTORIA WATER AND SEWAGE COMMISSION
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INSIDE YOUR HOUSE	
DON'T	DO
<p>Don't flush dangerous and damaging substances into your wastewater treatment system. Specifically, do not flush:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmaceuticals • Excessive amounts of bath or body oils • Water softener backwash • Flammable or toxic products • Household cleaners, especially floor wax and rug cleaners • Chlorine bleach, chlorides, and pool or spa products • Pesticides, herbicides, agricultural chemicals, or fertilizers. 	<p>DO Conserve Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take shorter showers or take baths with a partially filled tub. Be cautious about excessive use of a large soaking tub. • Don't let water run unnecessarily while brushing teeth or washing hands, food dishes etc. • Wash dishes and clothes when you have a fully load. • When possible, avoid doing several loads in one day. • Use water saving devices on faucets and showerheads. • When replacing old toilets, buy low-flush models.
<p>Don't use special additives that are touted to enhance the performance of your tank or system. Additives can cause major damage to other areas in the collection system. The natural micro-organisms that grow in your system generate their own enzymes that are sufficient for breaking down and digesting nutrients in the wastewater.</p>	<p>Do use substitutes for household hazardous waste. Replace the following hazardous products with products that are less environmentally harmful.</p>
<p>Don't ignore leaky plumbing fixtures, repair them. A leaky toilet can waste up to 2,000 gallons of water in a single day. That's 10-20 times more water than a household's typical daily usage. Leaky plumbing fixtures waste natural resources and overload your system.</p>	<p>Do keep lint out of your wastewater treatment system by cleaning lint filters on your washing machine and dryer before every load. Installing a supplemental lint filter on your washing machine would be a good precautionary measure. This normally takes just a few minutes. Lint and other such materials can make a big difference in the frequency and costs of pumping your primary treatment tank.</p>

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<p>Don't leave interior faucets on to protect water lines during cold spells. A running faucet can easily increase your wastewater flow by 1,000 to 3,000 gallons per day and hydraulically overload your system. Instead, properly insulate or heat your facets and plumbing.</p>	<p>Do collect grease in a container and dispose with your trash. And avoid using a garbage disposal excessively. Compost scraps or dispose with your trash also. Food by0products accelerate the need for septage pumping and increase maintenance.</p>
<p>Don't use excessive amounts of water. Using 50 gallons per person per day is typical. If your household does not practice any of the water conservation tips below, you may be using too much water</p>	<p>Do use your trash can to dispose of substances that cause maintenance problems and/or increase the need for septage pumping. Dispose of the following with your trash:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg shells, cantaloupe seeds, gum, coffee grounds • Tea bags, chewing tobacco, cigarette butts, q-tips, candy wrappers, • Paper towels, toilet wipes, sanitary napkins, tampons, diapers, kitty litter • Rags, large amounts of hair.
<p>AT THE ALARM PANEL</p>	
<p>DON'T</p>	<p>DO</p>
<p>Don't turn off the main circuit breaker to the wastewater pumps when going on vacation. If there is any infiltration or inflow into the system, the pumps will need to handle it.</p>	<p>Do locate your alarm panel where it will be protected from potential vandalism and have unobstructed access.</p>
	<p>Do familiarize yourself with the location of your wastewater system and alarm panel.</p>
	<p>Do take immediate action to correct the problem in event of an alarm condition. Call your system operator or maintenance person immediately whenever an alarm comes on. It sounds like a smoke alarm.</p>
	<p>DO remember that the audible alarm can be silenced by pushing the button located directly</p>

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	above the “test” label on the front of the alarm panel. With normal use, the tank has a reserve storage capacity good for 24-48 hours.
OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSE	
DON'T	DO
Don't enter your tank. Entering an underground tank without the necessary confined space entry training and procedures can result in death from asphyxiation or drowning. Keep children away from tank openings if lids are off or lid bolts are removed.	Do keep the tank access lid fastened to the rider at all times with stainless steel lid bolts. If the lids or riser become damaged, BLOCK access to the Tank opening immediately.
Don't dig without knowing the location of your wastewater system. As much as possible plan landscaping permanent outdoor structures before installation. But easily removable items such a bird bath and picnic table are OK to place on top of your system.	
Don't drive over your tank or any buried components in your system unless it's been equipped with a special traffic lid. If the system is subject to possible traffic, put up a barricade or row of shrubs.	
Don't dump RV waste into your wastewater system. It will increase the frequency of required septage pumping. When dumped directly into the pumping vault, RV waste clogs or fouls equipment, causing undue maintenance and repair costs. Also, some RV waste may contain chemicals that are toxic or that may retard the biological digestion occurring within the tank.	
Don't ever connect rain gutters or storm	

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<p>drains to the sewer or allow surface water to drain into it. And don't discharge hot tub discharge into your system. The additional water will increase costs, reduce the capacity of the collection and treatment systems, and flood the drainfield. It can also wash excess solids through the tank.</p>	
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